

In Attendance: President – Jan Swenson

Sue Reiling	Paula Trapp	LuAnn Chambliss	Sheryl Wold
Carol Barthel	Joe Swenson	Sally Bolster	Gary Greb
Al Barthel	Pat Jeukens	Mary Ann Neuman	Dave Hemmer
Barb Hemmer	Roger Hanson	Kathy Hanson	Leatrice Hecht
Charles Hecht	Santa		

Jan called the meeting to order and lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

A **motion** was made by Dave Hemmer and seconded by MaryAnn Neuman to accept the minutes from our 3rd quarter meeting in October as corrected. **Motion approved.**

### **Treasurer's report**

The balance for Chapter accounts 100 & 105	\$25,122.29	
Chapter calendar account 110	\$53,566.91	for a sub total of \$78,689.20
Councils	\$45,049.58	for a total of \$123,738.78

Paula reported that there seemed to be a problem with the MERSC account as it has a negative balance. Pat said she would look into the matter. As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, the Readers for Life account had a balance of \$5,423.85. It was stated by Jan that much of the remaining balance was recently spent.

A **motion** was made by **Dave Hemmer** and seconded by **Al Barthel** to accept the treasurer's reports. **Motion approved.**

### **Committee Reports**

**Awards** – Through the gracious help of LuAnn we were able to submit 4 projects for award consideration. They are: Operation Share; Beep Ball; Easter Egg Hunt; MS Tram. We should hear something from the association in January if any of our projects have been selected. In 2008, we would like to see projects submitted from more council's. They can be submitted at any time throughout the year up to August 31. You don't have to write anything up but we do need details, number of people, hours, what was done, etc... We will do the actual write up on the project. The question was raised as to who goes to accept an award if we should win. It was explained that the past and current Presidents would attend and if one or the other of them could not attend possibly the chair of the event would go.

Submitted by: Sheryl Wold

**Calendar fundraiser** – Thanks to all who are going out and selling our Caring and Sharing Calendars. The latest count that LuAnn gave me was 692 which have been entered in the data base. Additional calendars were turned in today. Calendars can be sold until January 21<sup>st</sup>. Any last minute sales, call LuAnn with the name, address, telephone number, calendar number, sellers name and council, so she can input in to the data base. Then be sure to send her the registration form and check. In 2007 we sold 1281 calendars and each council/chapter received \$6.2835 for each one they sold. This is because we sold more calendars than was needed for our expenses. The expenses incurred are Minnesota State License \$150.00 and Johnson Printing \$1337.00. Mary Ann sold calendars at a Christmas luncheon at Jax and she sold 9 calendars. Calendars will also be for sale at the Metro Pioneer Luncheon on December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Metro Life Members have sold 297 as of this date. The 1<sup>st</sup> drawing will be January 25, 2008, 4:00 PM at 6500 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center, MN. The other drawings will be April 18, 2008 and August 22, 2008, at the same time and location as the 1<sup>st</sup> drawing.

Submitted by: Mavis Hjulberg (read by Mary Ann Neuman)

**Camporee** – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Chapter Report of the 10,000 Lakes Family Campers. We held our fall campout at Forest City, IA following the International Camporee. We enjoyed an anniversary meal at the VFW in Garner, IA as we wanted to patronize the organization that provided opening flag ceremony assistance at the International. A regular meeting was held. Nominations for 2008 offices and an election occurred at this meeting. Roger Hanson was elected Wagonmaster for 2008; all other officers remained the same. The 2008 Camping Schedule is set with the exception of the Mystery Trip which is optional. We are confident there will be a Mystery Trip in 2008.

Submitted by: Kathy Hanson, 2007 Wagonmaster

**Community Service** - Community service is alive and well in the Minnesota Chapter. Every Council seems to have several projects going to reach out to their communities and beyond. We not only have local projects but some reach as far as Afghanistan and Iraq. Our Cookie Ladies, Hug a bear Makers, and Calendar Sales People are hard at it. This gives Betty and me an easy job. Happy Holidays to all and to all HO! HO! HO!

Submitted by: Vollie and Betty Sanders, Co-Chairs (read by Sue Reiling)

**Cookbooks - Scholarships** – No Report

**E-Z Help 911 Cell Phones for Seniors** – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report 45 Cell phones were given at White Bear Lake, 30 at Bloomington, and 25 at Anoka County. Cell phone distribution is really down right now. Possible locations of interest in the future are in Maple Grove. Minneapolis area only seems interested in individual distribution which we don't normally do. John Stanoch put a paragraph in Qwest Today that generated a collection of 150 cell phones to date. There are currently more cell phones to deprogram than there are volunteers to do the work. Not sure why.

Submitted by: Gary Greb, Chairperson

**Life Members** – Since our October meeting, we visited a Lakes Council meeting in Brainerd on November 1<sup>st</sup> and the Hiawathaland Council meeting in Owatonna on November 10th. We continue to attend the Metro Council meetings and Metro Council Life Member meetings.

Submitted by: Sally Bolster and Mavis Hjulberg

**Membership** – Plans are underway for Bob Clark to put on a free concert on January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Veterans Home. We will be inviting current employees to come for the entertainment and to hear more about the Pioneers and register for membership. We have extended an invitation to Ed Miller, Qwest CEO, John Stanoch and Renee Codington to attend. More information will be forthcoming. We have picked up a few new members through drives in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Wayzata.

Submitted by: LuAnn Chambliss

**MS Tram** – the 2008 Tram is set for the North Shore, but will not follow the same route as the previous tram. If the Chapter does not pick this as a project for 2008, the 10,000 Lakes Family Campers will still provide volunteers for Rest Stop 3. Carol showed us a mug that Al received from the MS Society in thanks for being our "Qwest for the Cure" team captain. Information concerning the 2008 tram is also included in New Business.

Submitted by: Dave Hemmer and Al Barthel

**Participation** – I sent out four \$10 gift cards and the ones that receive them were appreciative of them. I have been receiving lots of hours for the Operation Share program. That project sure is active. In the month of

November, we have 4,987 hours reported. From January until the end of November we have 49,860 hours. I took web training for the new PALS program on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> as everything changes on January 1, 2008. I need every council to send me a list of their approved projects for 2008. If the name of the project is not self explanatory, please send me a description of the project and who is the project lead person. Hours can be bulked under the leads name or under the names of each individual, member or partner.

Submitted by Carol Barthel

**Power up to Read/Readers for Life** – Carol Barthel reported on the Readers for Life presentation of books at Lincoln School in St. Cloud. Due to a misunderstanding, instead of Vikings players, we had 2 Vikings cheerleaders, who did a fine job of talking to the students about the importance of reading. Joe and Jan had brought us several boxes of books that have been purchased for future distribution. As the meeting progressed we all helped to remove old pricing stickers and to put a Qwest informational sticker inside each book. Plans are underway for a presentation in Rochester and possibly in Brainerd and Grand Rapids. Mary Ann asked about the selection process for the titles we purchase and Jan indicated that the schools are able to suggest what titles they are interested in. A wide variety of titles are available and all the volunteers who have been to the Scholastic warehouse were excited about the project and the opportunity to volunteer. Joe said that the leaders at the warehouse were impressed with the Pioneers, dubbing us the best group he has worked with. There will be an opportunity for our group to help with another sale at the warehouse in May. The Power up to Read project has online training available but Jan expressed that one of the requirements was to register the participants including ethnic and economical background and she had some worries about the legalities of doing that.

Information provided by: Carol Barthel, Jan & Joe Swenson

### **Project Connect –No Report**

**Web Master** – Web usage levels are down. The calendar winners list continues generating the most interest. There was surprise expressed about the lack of interest in pictures. With a consistent effort on our part to put our web address on books, etc, hopefully there will be more use. Thanks were offered to LuAnn for her work on inputting information related to calendar sales. When giving calendars as gifts, Dave has produced a card that gives information about the project to the recipient. It is a tool that he is using, with great success, to generate more sales.

Submitted by: Dave Hemmer

### **Council and Club Reports**

**Arrowhead** – At the last meeting I asked for money for and was granted money for Howie & Colleen Hanson's Autism Speaks benefit. Other fundraising (including the money the Pioneers gave and the lunch we had for them) and the raffle tickets that were sold & Breeze Inn benefit brought in more than \$4500. They were very pleased with everyone's generosity. The Breeze Inn Nov 10th benefit was great. I went & came away with \$135 in gift certificates and lots & lots of other items. I had 3 sets of jewelry (necklace & earrings) but a Qwest tech's wife at the benefit wanted to buy one so I sold it, I gave one to my daughter-in-law & kept the other one. A Qwest tech wanted a mug I won to go with one he won so he got it. It was fun but I won so much it felt strange to keep saying that number is mine. Guess that's what I get for trying to support a good cause by buying lots of tickets. Howie & Colleen both sang Karaoke as well as many others. They were all fun to watch. The whole experience was really great. Colleen asked if I wanted to say a few words at the mike at the Breeze Inn and said they were really grateful that I had helped them so much. I declined. They had a lot of help & support from the Arrowhead Garage group also. Oct - We had a Dress A Bear - Mrs. Santa Bear by Sandy Heifner. These are auctioned on the Pioneer website and proceeds benefit area food shelves. Nov & Dec - Hug-A-Bears are in full production. We have over 200 small Bears out there in various stages of being done. We have more helpers than in previous years. We switched from the hard eyes & noses to machine sewed on faces that Marilyn Johnson & Jan Wangen are doing. Gloria Berger marked & cut out all the bears & put tags on them. Beth Johnson, Nancy Eilefson, JoAnn Cooper & Lois Nelson have been sewing them together, turning them right side out, stuffing

them & sewing them shut. Sandy Heifner and some of the others are putting ties on them & tacking them down so they are safe for children. Sandy got creative on a few & gave those bows & shoe laces. It was suggested that we do some of the larger sized bears so we are starting to get them marked & cut. We'll save them for next year's efforts though as the holidays get pretty busy for everyone. Dec - 2 trees were put up in the Melrose Bldg by Kathy Mills & Gloria Berger that have tags with children's ages & sex on them for people to take & bring back gifts for. The gifts will go to the Salvation Army. We have had a tremendous response and many gifts have been received. They will be delivered to the Salvation Army Friday Dec 14th by Casey Cusick. Gloria Berger will no longer be Arrowhead Council President after Dec 31st. We are trying to get someone to take the position. We thought we had someone but he decided not to. We have a couple other possibilities so cross your fingers for us.

Submitted by: Gloria Berger (read by Sue Reiling)

**CENTRAL COUNCIL AND HARLEY FORSYTHE** - In Oct we had a luncheon in Sauk Centre. There were 27 in attendance at the Palmer House. Nov. we had a breakfast in St Cloud at Perkins. There were 25 in attendance. At our Christmas Party in Dec at Whitney we had 30 some in attendance. We gave \$200.00 to the Salvation Army and \$100.00 to the Boys and Girls Club and \$100.00 Whitney Senior Center where we hold our parties. They all had a representative come and give a little talk. . We also gave toys to the Boys and Girls Club and food to Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities also received home knitted mittens by one of our partners which they were very happy about. We also donate \$250.00 every quarter to the Chore Club. We have a Pioneer who is very active in the Chore Club and they help the poorest of the poor in the St Cloud area. The Veterans Deer Hunt was very successful this year. There were about 12 Pioneers helping out with that project. Central Council also did the "Readers for Life" program. That sure was a good project. Lincoln School is a very diverse and fluid school and each child received a book. We picked out an extra 5 books for each class and sure were glad we did that, as one teacher had 3 new students that week. They sure seemed to appreciate what we did for them. We didn't have a Vikings player due to a mix up with the school staff but we did have two Viking cheerleaders. They were really good and talked to the kids about how important reading is. They were both in college. I would help with that project again. Dave and Barb Hemmer and Al and I helped with that. I was contacted by Deb Manion (an engineer from St Cloud and Anoka) to help. We are selling calendars and selling cookbooks. Al is still knitting caps for Coborns Cancer Center and we just took 64 to the center. There sure are appreciative. Barb Hemmer and Denny Houg's mother-in-law are still making wellness bags and Bud is still making Hug-A-Bears, close to a 1000 this year. We also send homemade birthday cards to our retired members. The cell project is a little slower but at the training they talked about talking book repair. On Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of Dec the guys will work on cell phones and I will go down to the office to give them a small presentation on the talking book repair and maybe, just maybe we can get that started in Little Falls. Once we have a chairperson we will have to get the tools and supplies, a key to the office and some broken talking books. Don't expect too much until we have a chairperson. Dave Hemmer reported that our calendar sales are better than last year.

Submitted by: Carol Barthel and Dave Massman, Central Council and Harley Forsythe Presidents

**Hiawathaland** – No Report but Jan was aware of new leadership for 2008. Janet Lozen.

**Lakes** – No Report but Jan is aware of the new leadership co-presidents for 2008. Chet Nettetstad & Mary

**Metro** – We had a very busy fall. We worked very hard on Operation Share III reporting 1150 hours. The Life Members Cookie Ladies have been very busy making hundreds of cookies. Lee found at her local super cheap place (Taymark) Christmas stockings for \$26.00 we had 130 stockings. We were able to raise \$1,200 and other donations from Pioneers, Qwest co-workers, friends, banks and credit unions, VFW & their Auxiliary at White Bear Lake, Lakes Moblie Dental, Gental Dental Inc in Forest Lake and Roseville, and the Radisson Hotel. Other events included the Rake Rattle & Roll project, Birthday in a bag which has donated 225 bags for 2007. We have set a goal of 250 bags in 2008. We held a Sloppy Joe fund raiser in St. Paul and raised about \$390.00 for the project. Lee Poirier and I worked 4 ½ hours at the Scholastic Book Fair and received 115 books that will

also be use for the Birthday in a Bag project next year. The Metro Council Holiday party is on December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Radisson Roseville Hotel and we have 71 signed up.

Submitted by: Pat Jeukens

**Metro Life Member Club – Meetings:** Thirty five Metro Life Members met for fun fall lunch at the Sunshine Factory in October. Our last business meeting of the year was held on November 28<sup>th</sup> with 30 members attending. **Donations:** At our November meeting we collected items for Senior Santa that was delivered to Home Instead Senior Center for Disbursement to their senior clients. Items collected included gift cards, stamps, lotions, stationary, slippers, socks and other items seniors might like. In addition to our collection we voted to donate to the following organizations: \$200 to Premier Publications Gifts for Seniors Christmas Program; \$200 to Dignity Center, Hennepin Ave United Methodist Church; \$100 to Union Gospel Mission; \$300 to Retrieve a Golden of MN. **Hours:** The Metro Life Member Pioneers reported 880 hours in September, 765 hours in October and 1626 hours in November. **Projects & Community Involvement:** Life Member Pioneers spent a great deal of time baking, shopping, packing and mailing items for Operation Share. Our famous Cookie Ladies again outdid themselves, making over 450 cookies, candies and bars for this shipment. In addition to our regular programs, Metro Life Member Pioneers volunteered at the Pioneer Skyway Sale, the National Kidney Foundation, - Success Beyond the Classroom. In reference to an earlier report from Central Council, Mary Ann suggested we consider making a group effort for the Scholastic warehouse sale in May. Carol Barthel talked about there being a website for volunteers to sign up to work. She said she would share the website address with us.

Submitted by: Mary Ann Neuman, President, Metro Life Member Club

**Western Plains** – In October we had our Fall Fling at Godfather’s Pizza in Montevideo with about 30 people attending. In the last quarter we made the following donations: \$150 to Jackson County Library; \$250 to the Boy Scouts; \$300 to 2-Country; \$300 to Pioneer Town; \$400 to Kandiyohi Fire Department; \$400 to Willmar Hospital Christmas party for kids; \$30 for volunteers who helped at Willmar. There was also an event at the Godfather’s Pizza in Windom.

Submitted by: Charles Hecht, President

### Old Business

**Readers for Life** – As this project was highlighted in several council and committee reports; it was felt that there wasn’t anything more to add.

**PAC – Electronic vouchers** – As everyone is aware, the PAC is closing operations in Dallas and moving to Denver on January 1, 2008. Once the move is completed, we believe there will be a smaller staff to help and fewer days the staff will be available. We have the understanding that although employees were asked if they wanted to make the move, none of the current staff will be in the new location. There was much discussion about difficulties that some are experiencing that are leading to delays in getting reimbursements. Central Council has indicated that they are finding the process pretty painless due to the fact of having systems in place to scan receipts and vouchers into the computer, attaching electronic signatures and emailing to the proper person designated for approvals and then on to the treasurer, who then emails the request to the PAC. They profess that this is working so well that there is usually less than a 5 day wait for checks to arrive. It was suggested that any treasurer on the computer, be instructed on the creation of an electronic signature and have the ability to scan in vouchers and receipts, so that all vouchers can be transmitted to the PAC through email. Dave Hemmer has offered to assist anyone who needs help creating an electronic signature. Jan indicated that it is important that all treasurers have a one on one relationship with the PAC.

**Museum** – The museum in St. Paul is again being considered as a sight for use during the National Republican Convention. We have been requested to go in and sort through the rooms to catalog or create an inventory of the items and remove items that are of no value which will then tidy up the area. The displays that are behind glass will need to be cleaned and all display cases need to be cleaned as well. Qwest will be providing for

removal of trash and help with moving larger items. There was much discussion about offering items to other museums around the state. We will be meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> & 12 and January 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> to do this project as John Stanoch is asking that this be completed by the end of January.

**Past Chapter Presidents & Partners of Region 3** – Minnesota has been chosen to host the gathering of past Chapter Presidents and Partners of Region 3 in 2010. Jan Swenson will be chair of this event. It was stated that Colorado will host this for 2008 & Nebraska will host in 2009. In a written communication from Vollie Sanders, it was suggested that we consider a motion for \$1,000 as set up money to be used by Jan and her committee. The vote on this motion will be tabled until our next Executive Board Meeting.

**Distribution of Interest** – As Paula was pressed for time, we did not receive more information about this subject.

**JDRF – Motion** - Acting on the motion from our last meeting, **Gary Greb** made a motion to donate **\$1,000 to the JDRF walk** in January at the Mall of America. **Mary Ann Neuman** seconded the motion. **Motion approved.** Gary had shared that we have been associated with this walk for 14 of the 15 years it has been done. The involvement by volunteer walkers has declined, but Gary is hoping for resurgence this year. He indicated that if there is little interest this time, it may be time to end our participation. He also said that a \$1,000 donation does entitle our volunteers to t-shirts from JDRF and that if we would make this donation in the future, earlier in the year, our name could be included on the t-shirts given out.

### New Business

**“Go to Meeting” software purchase** – Dave Hemmer spoke about the value of purchasing this software. He feels this would be an effective tool for teaching computer skills to our executive board, treasurers, and also be used for volunteer projects. By purchasing this for 1 year, he would establish an account that could be accessed by others who wish to use it as an instructional tool. The design of the software is that students relinquish control of their computers while in training and the instructor moves the cursor showing students what they will need to do to perform the required tasks while learning what is being taught. A **motion** was made by **Dave Hemmer** for **\$328** to purchase this software. **Pat Jeukens** seconded. **Motion approved.**

**Announcement** – The following is the final report for the 2007 International Camping Rally  
The 2007 International Telephone Pioneer Family Campers 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Rally was held Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> through Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> at Forest City, Iowa.

Thanks to Qwest Communications and the Minnesota Chapter of the Qwest Pioneers. The Minnesota Chapter approved having our rally as an official Chapter event. This allowed us to acquire our liability insurance through the Pioneers at no cost to us. We were then allowed to have all our printing and mailing done at Kinko's and billed to the Qwest Corporate account. The Qwest Pioneers have been providing free mailing for the “Hello Central” for several years. The Minnesota Chapter provided us with a cash advance to cover our start up expenses. For this reason, after all the accounting items have cleared, we will be donating any profits to the Qwest Pioneers.

Today I will be handing out \$7,700.00 to Councils who provided volunteers at the Rally and to the Chapter. Before handing out the checks I have a few comments.

I want everyone to know that none of this money was “donated to charity” It was all earned through camping fees, tour & meal fees, and etc. for funding the rally.

The TPFC and the 10,000 Lakes Family Campers is the only Pioneer club whose primary purpose is to provide fellowship and fun for its members. We do of course make charitable contributions. For example at the Forest City Rally we collected and delivered non-perishable food for the flood victims in southern Minnesota and we collected EZ Help 911 Cell Phones.

There are no strings attached to these gifts. I hope all our officers and board members will reflect on the 35% of our Pioneer dollars that can be spent on things other than Charity. Think about (using these funds on) our membership. Our wonderful volunteers, our older retirees, or leadership, remember that sometimes it's necessary to spend a few dollars on prizes, or on a special recognition. Maybe help fund someone's travel expense to a chapter or region meeting. Remember it's not always easy to find someone who is willing to accept these leadership positions.

Central Council \$1,000.00	15 volunteers worked 134 days at the rally and many the past 5 years getting ready.
Metro Council \$1,000.00	10 volunteers worked 120 days at the rally and planning
Hiawathaland \$1,000.00	4 volunteers who worked 26 days at the rally and Kathy & Roger Hanson who attended every single planning meeting and made several trips to Forest City.
Western Plains \$1,000.00	4 volunteers who worked over 16 days. Ralph & Ada Hunsted have supported the rally effort by making and raffling 3 lap robes over the last 3 years.
MN Chapter 18 \$3,700.00	Has supported the 10,000 Lakes Family Campers of many years by us with trading pins and having us as members of the executive board. For this Rally the Chapter provided a \$3,000.00 dollar advance which helped us get started long before the cash started coming in.

**MS Tram 2008** – Al Barthel put forth a motion for \$1,000 in support of a Qwest for the Cure team. A final vote will be made at the June Executive Board meeting. If we are unable to get the required number of riders to form a team, Al would like to have this as a pledge toward his total efforts as a rider.

**Thank you, Jan** - Mary Ann Neuman made comments in gratitude to Jan for her leadership in 2007. We all shared in this sentiment.

**Jan Passed the Gavel to Kathy Hanson, Chapter President 2008** - Kathy announced the dates for the 2008 Executive Board meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – February 8, 2008; 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – June 6, 2008; 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – September 12, 2008; 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter – November 7, 2008. She said she was working with LuAnn to secure the 2800 Wayzata Blvd. conference room for these meetings. Dave Hemmer expressed the desire of Central Council to host the June meeting at the Whitney Center in St. Cloud. It had been suggested that we perform some kind of community service in conjunction with our executive board meetings. As many of the board will not be staying overnight, it was thought that any project that is under consideration is something that can be completed in a relatively short time, so people can get back on the road toward home. Sue Reiling suggested an easy project might be that those attending bring a food donation that could be given to the local food shelf. **Projects for 2008** – A motion was made by **Dave Hemmer** and seconded by **Jan Swenson** to make the 2008 MS Tram a chapter project. It was also suggested that we continue to support Hug a Bears, Readers for Life, EZ-Help/911 and the Beep Egg hunt as chapter projects. **Search Committee/Vacancies in the Vice President positions** – Kathy expressed concern that we have no Vice Presidents for 2008. She had spoken with Harry Osborne, who had expressed interest in the position if no others volunteered. Kathy asked if anyone else in attendance was interested in being considered and that if anyone had a name for consideration that it is passed to the Search committee. (The search committee is made up of recent past Chapter presidents.) There was much discussion about the future leaders of the Pioneers needing to be accessible through the internet and use of the computer. There was nothing decided about whether this would be an absolute requirement. Gary expressed concerns about the conducting of elections by mail with many others saying how expensive this process is in relationship to the response from the membership. Jan offered that in other states, elections have been conducted over the internet and with the use of email address that are input into our database.

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by: Sue Reiling, Chapter Secretary