

**Minnesota Chapter 18  
Pioneer Executive Board Meeting  
February 8, 2008**

**In Attendance:**

Pres. Kathy Hanson		Carol Barthel Al	Roger Hanson
Deb Caris	Vollie Sanders	Barthel Mary	Lois Thelen
Bob Clark	Lorna Leier	Nemec LuAnn	Jan Swenson
Mavis Hjulberg	Dallas Leier	Chambliss Pat	Joe Swenson
Harry <sup>7</sup> Osborn	Dave Hemmer	Jeukens Gary	
LaVaughn Osborn	Barb Hemmer	Greb	
Betty Sanders	Elsa Ditty		

Kathy called the meeting to order and introductions were made after which Kathy lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Vollie Sanders and seconded by Jan Sanders to accept minutes from 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting in December as corrected. **Motion approved.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Paula could not get day off, but provided a copy of the treasurer's report for everyone. This is an end of year report. Paula noticed a few errors in report, but she is working with the Dallas Accounting Center to get errors corrected. Important to note: the chapter has only \$11,576.32 to cover expenses and /or donations.

The balance for Chapter account 100	=	\$ 11,576.32
Chapter 105 - Readers for Life Account	=	\$9,034.50
Chapter 110 - Calendar Account	=	<u>\$56,606.91</u>
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$77,217.73</b>
Councils	=	<u>\$44,386.61</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$121,604.15</b>

Kathy requested a set of the records to see how close we were to meeting our contribution goal of 55% of funds for year 2007. Roger created a spreadsheet that shows 48.52% of our 2007 goal of 55%, so it was close, without much of a guideline to go by and records were in a state of flux. Last year the goal for expenses/meetings, etc. was no more than 35% and we hit 29.5%, so we were under objective there, which is good. This year our goal is to spend no more than 30% of our funds on expenses/meetings and to reach 60%> of funds to go to charitable donations. This is a region goal for the entire pioneer organization. To retain a 501(c) 3 status you have to have a certain threshold of donations going out, with only a certain amount to going towards administrative expenses.

A **motion** was made by **Jan Swenson** and seconded by **Dave Hemmer** to accept the treasure's reports. **Motion approved**

**Committee Reports**

**Awards** - Cheryl Wold - no report

**Calendar Fundraiser** - many thanks to all who sold, and also purchased, the 2008 Caring and Sharing Calendars. There were 1,235 calendars sold. That is 46 less than what were sold in 2007.

The following is a breakdown of the 2008 Pioneer raffle expenses by type: \$25,000 prize fund; \$1,518 expenses for licenses and printing costs; 4 - \$1,000 scholarships for post-secondary education; and \$6,532 funds back to the selling Councils for Community Service Projects. We guaranteed \$5.00 per calendar sold to go back to each council for Community Service Projects, the same as previous years. The Chapter also voted to give back any extra funds, above expenses, to each selling Council for Community Service Projects. This year, 2008, an extra \$357 was divided among all selling Councils, which equated to an extra \$.2890688 per calendar. (Each council got \$5.2890688 per calendar)

Central Council is to be commended for selling 65 more calendars in 2008 than in 2007. Now if the rest of you will do the same...

If you have not returned your unsold calendars, please do so. They should be returned to LuAnn or to Mavis.

The next drawing will be April 18, 2008, 4:00pm at 6540 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center, MN.

How many of you have sent out order blanks via mail to ask for requests? That is where you get your extra calendars - through the mail because we got over 200 through the Metro Life Members.

Dave started pushing the calendars as Christmas gifts - and found that it caught on, especially with our older pioneers; it is so hard for seniors to figure out what to buy their grandchildren. Children especially like the concept of possibly winning.

If the Calendar project is a go for 2009, you should start early. The licenses remain at \$50 each. The approximate cost for 1,500 is \$1,407 calendars and 1,800 at \$1437. Mavis will no longer be chairing the project, but will help.

Submitted by Mavis Hjulberg, Chair, Calendar Committee

**Thank you Mavis** for your dedication to this project!

**Cookbooks/Scholarships** - Paula was not in attendance but later submitted committee reports to be included in minutes. Kathy passed out Scholarship Application form and they can also be printed off at [www.mnpioneers.com](http://www.mnpioneers.com) website. Send two or three to somebody in scattered sites and ask them to distribute them to their local schools or take to local schools in your area and let the school counselor know about the scholarships.

Cookbooks - orders from the Chapter office basically once a week. The largest has been 3 boxes to a North Dakota Chapter for resale. She is even selling the Montana cookbooks that Jan did a trade for years ago. The supply of Cookbooks has been getting moved to C basement form St. Paul. Perhaps somebody can let us know if the moving job is complete?

**Scholarships** - Paula has 3 confirmed judges, Jan Pomeroy with the Anoka schools, Ross Huseby with Byerlys and Mary Ann Neuman, sister to Ann Margaret (younger sister). Paula has an email out to three other prospects and has copies of the scholarship applications available. The judges know of the May 5<sup>th</sup> deadline and Paula will work with setting up the meeting date in the future. She has received 2 entries from a pioneer, but they were wrong, so they were sent back. The sending back is not a normal process, so shall not be repeated. Instructions need to be followed on the applications.

Later submitted for inclusion in minutes by: Paula Trapp

**Community Service** - Minnesota Chapter #18 should be very proud of their Councils and Clubs for 2007. The councils and Clubs were very involved in their communities and had an impact at many levels from food shelves and shelters to national Beep Ball events to the MS Bike Tram.

Representatives from all Councils and Clubs were involved. We sent packages to our defenders in Iraq and to support victims of floods, windstorms and tornadoes. We gave scholarships to young people to help them with their education. The E-Z Help programs continued to support our seniors. We will be pursuing ways we can take part in the Readers for Life program. Some of our Pioneers helped with a Camporee this summer in a monsoon, but it did not dampen the attendee's enthusiasm one bit. Betty and I hope to be able to help our Clubs and Councils this year to continue their many good works.

Vollie and Betty Sanders have offered to make business cards with the Pioneer logo to anyone that might like them.

Submitted by: Vollie and Betty Sanders, Community Service Co-Chairs

**E-Z Help 911 Cell Phones for Seniors** - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008 Report: 25 cell phones given to White Bear Lake seniors, 250 unusable cell phones given to New Hope Community Church in Cambridge, MN. Cell phone distribution is way down due to lack of demand. No new groups have requested the 911 cell phones. Participation as well is really down in the Metro. Usable cell phones are a small percentage compared to the amount donated. Hopefully, with summer coming, the demand may be back up with better weather. *Follow-up: Kathy will put on her to-do list to contact John Stanoch.*

Submitted by: Gary Greb

**Life Member Report** - since the December meeting, Sally attended the Metro Council Christmas Luncheon. We continue to attend the Metro Council meetings and also the Metro Life members meeting.

We would appreciate a list of your 2008 meetings, so if possible we can attend.

Submitted by: Mavis Hjulberg & Sally Bolster

**Management Liaison** - No report: Kathy did not receive RSVP or replies from Mr. Stanoch or Andy Schriener. It was suggested that Kathy contact LeAnn Camretta, John Stanoch's secretary, as she seems to be a really good contact and gets you on John's calendar.

**Membership** - January 27<sup>th</sup> we had a membership concert that Bob Clark put on and it was awesome. He did a really good job. He had a couple from England there, and another couple of women that backed him up. It was a great concert at the Vet's Home, unfortunately, no one showed up except those of us that volunteered. Which brings me to the biggest issue that we have facing us at Qwest today, trying to get the young people engaged and involved in Pioneers. The generation today is a little bit different in that if it is not Qwest time, they do not want to take time away from families etc. they are so involved with family and kids. We periodically have membership drives at the big building in downtown St. Paul and downtown Minneapolis and we have had them at the training center a couple of times. People have to take their own time to come down and we feed them. They seem to enjoy the food then go back to work. LuAnn thought it would be a good idea to have a picnic this summer at a park. A lot of groups have them at Valley Fair or somewhere they can bring their families. We have tried family functions before, but the younger crowd still did not show up. Brainstorming ideas?

Gary suggested one of the problems might be around Union perks. Harry Osborn suggested giving away Root Beer Floats during the summer. We have done that, but to get them to sign up is another issue. The floats did go over well, but again, no one signs up. Jan Swenson suggested we drive the point that we are not the phone company, we are a family oriented service organization with phone company members, but we are not the phone company. Dave Hemmer suggested we might need a "hook" something to draw them in, like all members that sign up today can put their names in a hat for a drawing for a "blender" We have done a drawing too, but just one person signed up. Mavis Hjulberg said that when she was working at the credit union, they found that you did not need big gifts, just lots of gifts like games, etc. to give to the kids and gift certificates to places like Target to give to the adults. Tried gifts in St. Paul, still did not get new members. Jan has also tried going out to the garages during the day, but they only have so many minutes in the garage in the morning before they have to be in the field and they will not let us in there as there is no time. They are really monitored closely now. They are really pushed for time. Bob Clark suggests we think outside the box to draw in new membership, different times call for different measures.

If you can think of anything - if you have grandchildren, ask them what would it take to get them to come to an event, what would draw you in? Bob Clark suggests we think outside the box to draw in new membership, different times call for different measures.

Gary Greb stated that it has been his experience that most people enjoy getting together - but they want projects they can do or one-time projects where they can go and have fun but do not have to attend meetings. Kathy Hanson agreed it's a different type of volunteerism than we are used to. We just need to get them in, so we can come up with new ideas!

Pat Jenkins said that when she was working, she had to use her break time for membership meetings. Maybe it is something that could be covered when you are hired. John Stanoch said he was going to implement that. It should be included in the hiring packet. Jan Swenson said that with regard to the membership database, they are not getting automatic feed when someone retires so they can go from a regular Pioneer to a Lifetime Pioneer. She also suggested a Pioneer Picnic and Safety Fair and maybe bring in someone like Liberty Mutual. Let attendees know what kind of projects we do and ask people what they would they would be interested in being involved in.

Submitted by: LuAnn Chambliss

**Thanks to Jan Swenson** for stepping back into the membership database update role now that she is no longer the Chapter President.

**MS Tram Report** - Carol Barthel said that John Stanoch said he would work with her on getting the riders jerseys this year - the nice colorful ones. Carol said that we currently have someone that will make them. Vollie Sanders suggested that we might try and use a business in Glenwood that does the Aquatennial hats and shirts at a very reasonable price and they do a really nice job. Carol thought it would be nice to have someone local.

Dave passed out flyers. The 2008 Bike MS: Tram is July 20 - 25<sup>th</sup> We are going to have a team, we are going to be collecting pledges and we are again running Rest Stop 3 - as usual. Turning to the second page of your handout you will find a map of the TRAM route. Through Minnesota's Iron range and down the North Shore of Lake Superior. Check-in begins on Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, on the campus of the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Participants bus to the starting point in Grand Rapids. Monday, July 21 the ride travels along the Mesabi Trail to Chisholm. Day two features a loop through both the George Washington State Forest and the Superior National Forest and back to Chisholm for a second night. Lastly, there are two columns below the map. The column on the left

shows who has signed up for Rest Stop 3 this year and the column on the right indicates who has worked Rest Stop 3 in the past but have not committed yet and Vollie has committed, we know that. The MS TRAM will be more fun than ever this year. It is one of the most fun experiences you can have and Dave encourages everyone to sign up if you can get a day off or two. Dave promises no flies!!

Submitted by: Dave Hemmer and Al Barthel

**Congratulations Dave and Barb Hemmer** - Dave Hemmer recognized his 44-year marriage to Barb with a kiss.

**Participation** - Hours for the year 2007 are 65,672. The hours for 2006 were 67,841. So you can see we are down for 2007. So let's give it a real push this year and get those hours in. I know it can be a pain sometimes, as even I maybe do not always put down all the time when I am working on the PATS program. We have a new program this year. The way you report hours to me will stay the same, but the way I input them is different. I did take an online class to learn to the new program and it does not exactly work the way they said it would. There is an online help desk and let me tell you - I have used it more than once and I do get my questions answered, but I can only ask one question at a time. There are times that I wish I could make a phone call and ask my questions, but there isn't. It seems like just when I think I have it down, another question comes up and I go to the Help Desk. Eventually, I'm sure I'll have it down pat.

Problem - when I put in a project, and they all need to be put in, as they didn't transfer from the other program, I need addresses. Well, not all projects have an address. So, to the Help Desk I went. It took a couple of days and I hadn't heard anything, so I re-asked my question. They were looking into it, as they really didn't have an answer for me. They told me to put in the Pioneer Office address and explain in the description why I did it.

Another tiling I am finding out, is that, for example we had a hug-a-bear session and I input hours for partners and their names do not come up, so I have to call either Jan or LuAnn and they have to input their name for me. I have to approve every project, that is the easy part now. Right now I am focusing on creating the projects and getting the hours in, and you know what. - I am learning, it is coming together a little bit and we will get the kinks worked out.

Submitted by: Carol Barthel

**Power Up to Read / Readers for Life** - Donna Ness is substitute teaching today. Jan Swenson in response to Power up to Read - Jan and Joe are going to be working with Donna on this project. As you saw at the December meeting we went put and purchased a bunch of books ahead of time for any upcoming Readers for Life Projects that we are pursuing getting books to grade school students to take home, specifically in schools with a high minority population with a lot of emphasis on reading and English and improving power reading skills. Right now Janet Lozon has set up a meeting with a school in the Rochester area on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Kathy noted that this will not be a book distribution, but will be a preliminary event to identify what date they want to have the event and what school they want it to go to. Hopefully at that preliminary meeting they will identify what grades are in that school and what number of students are in each grade so we know what kinds of books to bring.. this is the number of 1<sup>st</sup> grade books we need, this is the number of 2<sup>nd</sup> grade books, etc. Most of the labels were put on at the December meeting; however, we do have a few labels that we need to put on yet. We just purchased books in bulk and do not have them sorted by grade levels or reading levels. Once we have more labels, we are going to check with LuAnn to set up a date for an evening that Joe

and I, and anyone else, can sort books. The books are stored in the Swenson's basement - 20 some boxes of books.

Jan mentioned that Gary asked what the difference between a library and the Readers for Life Program might be. The Readers for Life Program was started in the state of Washington, where their governor sends out a report identifying which schools are below the norm in reading, then the Pioneers, based on the governors report, will then go into that school identified and donate books to the students to take home and keep as their own to develop a love for reading and to help them work on their reading skills and reading comprehension. Gives them a chance to be really enthused about a book and to have something of their own.

Carol Barthel mentioned that she has a box of Power to Read stuff, if anyone is interested and The Readers for Life, they did one in St. Cloud and it was phenomenal.

Jan Swenson Power up to Read Project is computer based - Hard to get into schools - Region wants financial and racial backgrounds of families that you are donating these things to. Janet Lozon kind of sidestepped some of that stuff and worked with Hiawathaland Council and came up with a modified program with an after school program to improve reading skills.

Mary Nemic questioned how one gets the Readers for Life Program into a particular school. Jan said this project is not limited to one grade, but has been done for an entire school. This is a chapter-wide project that receives funds from the Qwest Foundation. The Spirit of Service teams for the Lakes area helped with the school in St. Cloud. Qwest likes the project - they get good press out of it. If you have a school that is interested, contact Jan Swenson or Karen Jolson.

**Readers for Life** - Three presentations so far: First one was a partnership with Vikings Community Tuesday Program. 6 Pioneers and 5 Vikings players held a school assembly for 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Graders, then read to students in these classrooms. 500+ books were donated so each student got a book to own.

St. Cloud was the second presentation. Several Pioneers and 2 Vikings Cheerleaders held 2 assemblies (1/2 of students each) and talked about the importance of reading. Approximately 370 books, sorted by grade level, were donated.

Janet Lozon gave a Reader's for Life Presentation to the students and siblings of her after school class where she had the Power Up to Read Program. They presented the books at an evening Talent and Congratulatory Program.

Submitted by: Jan Swenson

**Project Connect** - No activity due to limited access

**Webmaster Report** - How many of you have received the Hello Central Newsletter. It is an annual newsletter put out by the Telephone Pioneer Family Campers. I intended to get extra copies, but not available right now, but when we go out to AZ in May, I intend to bring back extra copies. Then at our June meeting at St. Cloud I will have extra copies.

The web report is up a little bit from last quarter. Last quarter was a short quarter, but it is still down pretty badly. We need to work on that... I think one of the things that is fooling me a little bit is that we are actually getting quite a few hits thru the [www.Qwestpioneers.com](http://www.Qwestpioneers.com) site because I linked that site to our site [www.mnpioneers.com](http://www.mnpioneers.com) and I am not sure if my links are just right. That might be an issue; maybe we are getting more hits than I know<sup>7</sup> about. Anyway, the *Calendar Winners* are the

biggest page, because everybody wants to know who won on the calendars and the *Current News* page is second, because they want to see the obituaries and so on. All that emphasizes is that people want to see new material all of the time. We have some new council presidents here and other new officers and I cannot emphasize enough that I need material from you. If you have events in your council or club and you take pictures - I want them; however, I need documentation with those pictures - what is the event, who is sitting there, etc.

We did have 1,820 hits through the [QwestPioneers.com](http://QwestPioneers.com) site, which is good. We are still # 8 out of 14 chapters in the region. We do not need to be ashamed of that; we are hanging right in there. Continue to put out the web page to all of your friends and relatives and other members and send me information to put on there. Mary Ann Neumann has agreed to continue assisting me on the web page by doing the calendar part of the Qwest Pioneers web site. She puts our meetings and calendar events on that.

Submitted by: Dave Hemmer

Camporee - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Chapter Report, 2008, 10,000 Lakes Family Campers. During this Quarter our membership is scattered across the country for the winter season. A number of our members will be attending the International Rally in Tucson, AZ on May 6 - 8<sup>th</sup>. Our Spring Camporee is planned for May 16-18, 2008 at the Clearwater Campgrounds. The week of July 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be working the MS-TRAM. Our Fall Camporee is to take place August 15-17, 2008 and that will be in Wadena. We are still looking for a host for our mystery trip.

Submitted by Roger Hanson, Wagon Master

### **Council and Club Reports**

**Metro** - Pat passed pictures around showing books that she and Lee received as payment for working at the Scholastic Book Fair. They earned \$20 per hour in books and had clocked in 9 hours between the two of them. Birthday in a Bag bags are given to the area Metro Food Shelves. Pat and Lee shop all the specials to keep the cost down. For example, Pat found 10 bags for a \$1 and bought a little over 200 bags to use for the project. Pat said she solicited funds and got a \$50 gift card from Target. She showed us examples of all the items she found on the \$1 shelf at Target and then all of the items that she found that were on clearance for little to nothing. They coordinate for boy and girl theme bags, and put cakes mixes, frosting, balloons, candles, napkins, stickers, etc. They want to fill over 225 Birthday Bags in 2008. The bags cost less than \$5.00 a piece to fill because of their bargain shopping and thriftiness.

The Holiday Luncheon Project this year was Breakfast in a Bag for Ronald McDonald House - Lee and some of her friends made the little hug-a-bears - the Breakfast Buddy. She was able to get 140 bags for free from K-Mart. They can use the bags afterwards for whatever they want. They wanted juice and fruit, a muffin, yogurt roller and different kinds of bars - through it in the bag and she even put a Qwest Pioneers label on the ribbon of the bear.

Kathy Hanson said that when she attends the Leadership Training in Austin, they asked everyone to showcase a couple of things, and she thought these would travel well and Pat always has such passion around both of these projects. The Breakfast in a Bag for Ronald McDonald House and the Birthday-in-a-Bag that goes to the Food Shelves where when someone comes in and has a child with a birthday, they can pick-up a bag and take the whole party home with them.

Submitted by Pat Jeukens - Metro Council

## **Thanks Pat - Great Bargain Shopping!**

**Arrowhead** - Jo Ann Cooper our new president for Arrowhead Council out of Duluth is an active employee and was not able to get the day off- No Report

**Central Council** - On January 10<sup>th</sup> we had our council meeting. We did our budget for the year and approved it. The other thing we did was go over all of our projects that we do at the central council and approved them. So if I could get from the other councils your projects and make sure they are all approved - which I am sure when they come through they are all approved anyway.

We discussed our Spring Fling, which will take place on April 24 at the East Side VFW in St. Cloud.

In Little Falls we had a group of 4 or 5 guys that were doing a cell phone project, but because most of the cell phones that we are getting now are not useable phones, so we asked St. Cloud to take over that project for us and believe it or not, I found a chairman for the Talking Books, for repairing Talking Books. I gave him the information and told him I am learning to say "no" and would no longer chair, but Al will help.

I also have a story to share.. .as most of you know, our son Eric is a state trooper and he called last Sunday evening with a Hug - A - Bear story. Grandpa and grandma were taking their 3 or 4 year-old granddaughter to Mom's when they were rear-ended by a drunk driver. They took Grandpa to the hospital and he will be okay. Eric did give the little girl a Hug - A - Bear and she was so happy with the bear that she took that bear with her instead of the one she had in the car. She named her bear Fuzzy. The mom thought the bear was wonderful and wanted to know who made them. Eric did refer them to the web site, but I told Eric to give her my name and number. Haven't heard from her and not sure we will, but the story was great.

Submitted by: Carol Barthel, Council President

**Harley Forsythe Life Member Club - St. Cloud** - In December we had our monthly meeting / Christmas party at the Whitney Senior Center. There were 30 members and partners in attendance.

At this time we present checks to the boys & Girls Club, Salvation Army and the Whitney Senior Center. We also brought toys for the Boys & Girls Club and non-perishable food items for the Catholic Charities Food Shelf. Not positive how many pounds of food that was.

In January, we had our breakfast meeting with 20 people in attendance. Also in January about 9 of us met and stuffed 139 bears that had been prepared and ready for us by Barb Hemmer and Bud Smith.

February 12<sup>th</sup> will be our Valentine Party/meeting. March will be our breakfast meeting and in April we will be going to Little Falls for our April meeting/luncheon. One of our members makes caps for the Coborn Cancer Center. Barb Hemmer has made 47 Wheel Chair bags and 20 Catheter bags. Wonder what she does in her spare time?

Jan Swenson stated that last year at the annual meeting they were asking if we had brought some of the catheter bags. There were groups interested in seeing a sample.

We served coffee at Little Falls to 20+ NWB / Qwest employees and retirees right at the office.

Submitted by: Elsa Ditty, Life Member President

## **Hiawathaland** - Janet Lozon - No Report

Lakes - Lois Thelen introduced Mary Nemeč the new President of the Lakes Council. The Lakes Council for the year 2007 had a luncheon at Christmas for 47 people in Detroit Lakes. Each one of our towns received \$200 from the treasurer to donate to our cause. We in Detroit Lakes donated \$100 to Salvation Army and \$50 to the Food Shelf and \$50 to the nursing home because we do bingo there every other Monday. Then in Brainerd, they have a meeting the first Thursday of every month. The person that is in charge always plays Santa at Christmas, so he donated the \$200 to the children he plays Santa Claus for. Sue in Bemidji is very active and had a Christmas luncheon as well, and of course she takes the hours for all towns and does that every month. Then in Thief River, I am sure you all remember Jerry Moyer, not too active because he went back to work for the railroad, one thing Jerry does is sells calendars for us. Fergus Falls had a Christmas party for 17 members and they donated \$100 to hospice and \$100 to Salvation Army.

Submitted by: Lois Thelen and Mary Nemeč

**Metro Life Member Club** - The following is information from the Metro Life Member Club. The winter/spring mail out for the Qwest Pioneer Life Member Club was mailed out on January 5, 2008 - that was over 3,000 pieces. The mail out contained an introductory letter from the 2008 President, Bob Clark. Included in the mail-out was a form for the annual Life Member Valentine Luncheon held this year at Elsie's restaurant on February 20<sup>1</sup>. Also included was a notification of the March 26<sup>th</sup> and the May 28<sup>th</sup> Life Member lunch meetings also held at Elsie's. We also included a form for a Life member Casino Trip on May 7<sup>l</sup> to St. Croix Casino, and finally, a sign up form was included for our Life Member Summer Outing to the Plymouth Playhouse to see "Church Basement Ladies 2."

We continue volunteering our time and efforts with the making of Hug-a-Bears, Operation Share, the ARC Rose sale, and the newly added Minneapolis Veterans Home, along with other volunteer opportunities. We will continue having community service projects at our Life Member meetings. The March meeting will be non-perishable food items to be donated to the food shelf, and the project for the May meeting is summer T-shirts for the children at St. Joe's. A special project at our life Member meetings will be "Who Is That?" A game to see if our seniors can identify people in photographs recovered from the St. Paul Pioneer Museum archives. Have lots of books with old pictures going back to the 40's when NWB had candidates in the Aquatennial and the Winter Carnival, so it's going to be really neat to identify people from the great old NWB days. Unfortunately they are numbered on the back, which relates to a key that no longer exists.

Joe Swenson recommended that once someone is identified, we make sure we scan them all in. Bob said that they are documenting all of that information.

Submitted by: Bob Clark, President Metro Council

## **Western Plains** - Charlie Hecht - No Report

Jan Swenson had everyone number off for a chance to win two watches that were donated by the Disabled American Veterans. Harry Osborn won the men's watch and LaVaughn Osbon won the women's watch.

### **Old Business**

**Past Chapter President and Partners Event of Region 3** - Minnesota has been chosen to host the gathering of the Past Chapter Presidents and Partners of Region 3 in 2010. It was suggested at the

last executive board meeting that we consider a motion to loan this committee \$1,000 as set-up money. A **motion** was made by **Vollie Sanders** that the chapter loan \$1,000 to the committee planning the Past Chapter Presidents and Partners event and that loan be paid back after the event happens (2010). **Jan Swenson** seconded the motion. **Motion passed.**

**MS Tram 2008 - Motion** made by **Dave Hemmer** to donate \$1,000 to 5-Day MS Tram Riding Team for Qwest for the Cure. Leave the decision up to Al Barthel on how he distributes it. **Vollie Sanders** seconded motion. **Motion carried.**

### New Business

**Qwest's 3<sup>r</sup> fundraising distribution for 2007** came to us at the end of December for \$3,349. 25. It was deposited into the chapter funds. We always vote on how to distribute it. In the past it has been 25% to the chapter, 25% to the metro and 9% to all other out state councils. This should be the funds coming back from those that are signed up for the Pioneer Credit Card and from the region for their fundraising and I have asked if the money raised for the bowl - a- thon at the Denver meeting was in that pot of money. They have not gotten back to me on that, so have not gotten any clarification. Jan would make a motion that pending information as to whether the bowl-a-thon money was part of this check, because that was for the Readers for Life Program, we distribute like we have in the past along those percentages to the chapters and to the councils. Dave Hemmer asked for a clarification as to exactly where these funds are coming from. Have not gotten clarification, no details were given.

Kathy Hanson had notes that said when it came to distributing the dues which comes in one big distribution as well, that was 9% to out state and fundraising from the region 9% - noted June 16, 2006. But Kathy did not know what percentage metro got. Jan says she thinks 25%, 25% and the 9% for out-state councils. Kathy asked for clarification of just what is that we are trying to determine so we can move along? How to divide the check up? Jan said that Paula had this on her report list but did not have any guidelines on it. It was on # 10 on her report. So we are charged here with coming up with some kind of distribution. Dave said it is hard to determine how to divide it up if we do not know what we are talking about. How did we come up with the original distribution number? Kathy asked what difference it would make if it were dues funds or fundraising funds.

Bob Clark recalled why they came up with that number. It was because the 9% was actually more than what each of those out-state councils were already putting in (based on dues and MB&A also) - the out-state was less than 9% with number of members, so it was elevated 9% across the board so it would average out at 100% of the check. The metro council's 25% was actually less than what it deserved to get based on membership at the time.

A **motion** was made by Vollie Sanders and seconded by **Gary Greb** that the fundraising distribution check be split in the following manner: 25% to Metro Council, 25% to the Chapter, and raised to 10% for each of the 5 out-state councils. **Motion carried.**

**Pioneer Museum** - Jan has handed out a summary of a January 30, 2008 conference call discussion on the future of the Pioneer Museum.

Joe questioned the reference made to "all items are considered Qwest property" in last item on the summary. A lot of the stuff in the museum was donated by the pioneers. Kathy agreed, but said that it all began as Qwest property. Joe stated that the company sold a lot of it off too. The pioneers donated things like service pins and things like that. But if it is equipment, it probably never belonged to an individual to donate, unless it hung in their house and then they turned around and said put this in the museum. Dallas stated that there was a form that you had to fill out when you got rid of your old equipment to junk it, so a lot of the items did indirectly come from NWB, including the shelving.

The shelving has some of the old NWB inventory numbers on them that are no longer being inventoried by Qwest, but Karen Mickelson is even disputing to whom the shelving belongs to. When we cleaned the museum out, there were people helping out that did not have any idea what to save and what to throw out. There was \$ 15,000 phone that went out into the trash. There was probably \$30,000 worth of stuff that went into the trash. Some of you might remember that in one of the desks in the back room, there were two sets of service pens from women that were donated - one from Char Bailey. Don't know what happened to them, but they are gone. There were old rulers and other items with the NWB logo on them - all gone. To get back to the items that were there, they were all items donated to the Pioneers through NWB, they do not belong to Qwest.

Kathy acknowledged that some items are now gone that we cannot get them back, but if you claim all those items as property of the Pioneers then she proposes that the Pioneers should be responsible for whatever it takes money-wise and space-wise to transport and store the items. If Qwest is claiming it as their property, they should be paying for all the transport moving and temporary storage of it. We must consider that.

Dallas thinks that the Pioneer Museum is a thing of the past. He thinks that the metro museum really has to look at dispersing items to other museums, and what they cannot disperse to other museums, i.e., tri-state telephone books that started in 1900, items like that should be donated to the Minnesota Historical Society. Stuff that they can't donate they should sell and put the money into their treasury. They have a wooden pay phone dating back to early 1900 or before - never seen anything like it - even has a slot for a silver dollar. When Kathy Hanson talked to Karen Jochen, Karen acknowledged the fact that Karen Michelson is actively looking for a space to store the things that the Pioneers want to keep, in the event that we can have some space for a museum somewhere, but it did not sound at all possible to Kathy that that space will be at the 70 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street bldg in the future.

Jan Swenson stated that Karen Michelson has always been very negative when it comes to building space. From the feedback that she has gotten from John Stanoch, Karen Hanson and a little bit of a mention to Andy they would like to see people going through the museum. That was some of the stuff that started this back and forth just when they started talking about the convention being in that site. Carey had thrown out the idea that maybe if we are going to have our Pioneer items still on display when they do with whatever they are going to do with that site, that maybe we want to show where the future of telecommunications is going and where Qwest is going in the future along with the past. If we want a viable museum with some stuff, she is sure that the region will help us with a spot whether it is at 70 West 4 Street or some other company location. I think we want to go forward with the idea that we conserve and save many of the items.

Gary Greb suggested that the only way that museum will survive is to make it a "hands-on" museum. He feels that Dallas is the only one that is qualified to say what is and is not good there. They have got switchboards that they could get working - kids want the hands-on. Nobody likes walking around and just looking, they want hands on.

The space is about 3,000 square feet, several rooms, all on one floor,-not technically up-to-date electrically, 20 foot ceilings, lots of marble lots of Brazilian walnut. It is missing an accessible restroom.

Joe and Jan Swenson will be at the Park & Ride by their home at 9:00 - 9:10 am for anyone that wants to carpool to site to inventory and label the museum contents.

Dave Hemmer interrupted conversation to say he had noticed that it was not the proper 90 days on the MS Tram \$1,000 donation vote. **Jan** Swenson made a **motion** to make an exception to approve a

\$1,000 donation outside the 90-day perimeter guidelines. **Dave Hemmer** seconded motion. **Motion carried.**

**Beeping Easter egg Hunt** - We are supposed to be holding a Beeping Easter egg Hunt close to Easter. We are just going to talk about where we are going to have one or are we going to have more than one in our area. Jan have you been involved in one or not, over by the state capital. We haven't set a date yet. LuAnn is going to start looking for a place to hold it indoors this year, specifically in the metro area. We have 55 of the beeping Easter eggs that we had last year with a couple that had to be sent back for repair. If you have a blind school or visually impaired in any of your councils, we would encourage you to try and do a Beeping Easter Egg Hunt because this year the region wants to set up quarterly events that they are going to pitch to their media and vice presidents across the region. Because Easter is the first quarter this year, they would like to see as many as possible in the region.

Kathy was wondering if the chapter or the Pioneers initiates the event or do you contact groups and say would you like us to do it and what date would you like us to hold it on. Jan said we set the date and the location for the visually impaired organizations. LuAnn has a lot of the details on this. Kathy thought that if we pick a smaller site, for instance Faribault, it might be a little less intense. Because Easter is March 23<sup>rd</sup> it will probably have to be indoors, as it will most likely still be pretty cold. Kathy did receive a communiqué from the region saying that if we needed to buy more eggs, they would contribute 50% of the total price. The eggs cost \$7.19 so they would kick in \$3.60. The region would also reimburse the hosting organization \$100 for expenses like for party supplies or Easter baskets and also \$100 for hats or visors or volunteer T-shirts for the hosting group.

Kathy Hanson will go to Hiawathaland to see if we can work on a date and then I will email everyone and hope that you can drum up participation. Give us your moral support or donate \$10 to buy candy to put into these Easter Baskets. Whatever you can do would be helpful.

**Telephone Pioneer Living History Interview Questions** - Joe Swenson explained that with the advent of the museum possibly going away, he realized that a lot of living history that we have built up over the years is not going to be tracked any longer. He remembers the old scrapbooks that used to be put out and noted that Bob has a lot of them saved. Joe realized while talking with some Pioneer people that there are a lot of different things that would be considered living history that we should consider capturing. Get your thoughts going on it. Joe has a camera for the interviews and video editing equipment at home.

Kathy Hanson passed around some ideas that she had written up for anyone wanting to focus on honoring or remembering veterans or help other groups with some ideas. Our next meeting is in St. Cloud on June 6\* at the Whitney Senior Center at 9:00am.

**Bob Clark** made **motion** to adjourn meeting. **Carol Barthel** seconded motion. **Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted: Deb Caris, Chapter Secretary