

**Minnesota Chapter 18
Pioneer Executive Board Meeting
Whitney Senior Center, St. Cloud Minnesota
June 6, 2008**

In Attendance:

President - Kathy Hanson
Vice President - Harry Osborn
Al Barthel
Carol Barthel
Gloria Berger
Pat Bohmer
Sally Bolster
LuAnn Chambliss
Elsa Ditty
Jerry Fischer
Charles Hecht
Dave Hemmer

Barb Hemmer
Mavis Hjulberg
Ralph Hunstad
Ada Hunstad
Pat Jeukens
Janet Lozon
Betty Sanders
Vollie Sanders
Jan Swenson
Joe Swenson
Paula Trapp
Sheryl Wold
Win Wold
Doc Thielmann, Special
Guest

Kathy Hanson called the meeting to order and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance,

We held a moment of silence focusing on troop and veteran and support.

Introductions made and we welcomed Ralph and Ada Hunstad from Montevideo the Western Plains Club. Introduced Ralph as the new co-chair for the Calendar Project (along with Roger Hanson). Also welcomed Pat Bohmer from the Metro Life Member Club.

Carol Barthel made motion to approve minutes with corrections. **Vollie Sanders seconded.**
Minutes approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report - Paula Trapp passed out report. Very frustrated with the new process.

As of April 30, 2008

The balance for Chapter account 100	\$28,303.04
Chapter 105 - Readers for Life Account	\$9,034.50 (There is a voucher out there for \$4,000)
Chapter 110 - Calendar Account	\$56,165.41 (checks are going out for June winners)
Councils	\$38,202.46
Advances	\$500.00 (Hope someone Denver is tracking.
Unknown deposit	\$31.35 (Something from Western Plains)
Checking other _____	<u>\$(402.07)</u>
Total	\$131,835.29

Motion was made by **Dave Hemmer** and seconded by **Pat Jeukens** to accept the treasure's reports.
Motion approved.

Committee Reports

Awards - Each Council President is receiving a copy of the Awards manual for 2008 today. Please take time to look through it and see if any of your projects would qualify for submitting under of the categories.

The Minnesota Chapter did well in winning three awards in 2007. Kathy has them on display for you to look at.

This year they would like to get the award nominations is early as possible so they can be critiqued by someone with professional writing skills to enhance the written part of the awards to be submitted to National.

Projects big or small should be considered to write up for an award. Some of the award winners have been for simple projects so never underestimate the value of the projects your Council is working on.

Projects can be ongoing projects or new projects that have taken place within the time frame of October 2007 through September 2008. It is important that you contact officials, outside of Qwest, that were involved in your project and request written confirmation on the impact your project has within the community. Any newspaper articles on the project are also needed to submit with the award.

Please contact Sheryl with anything you might feel could be submitted this year as I am not aware of all the projects each Council is pursuing during the time frame for our 2008 award year. Sheryl can be reached at 952-471-7281 or emailed at wdwold@msn.com.

Submitted by Sheryl Wold

Calendar - The second drawing for the 2008 Caring and Sharing calendars was held on April 18, 2008. The final drawing for 2008 will be on August 22, 2008, 4PM at 6540 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center, MN.

Kathy has informed me that Roger Hanson and Ralph Hunstad will be co-chairs for the 2009 Caring and Sharing Calendars. The procedure I used will be given to them to assist them to prepare the 2009 calendar. Computer information will be available from Jan Swenson and LuAnn Chambliss.

Thanks to all who gave me support when I was the chair.

Submitted by Mavis Hjulberg

Kathy Hanson - Thank you Mavis, you have done a superb job with that! We will miss you!

Camporee - In the first quarter of 2008 fourteen Telephone Pioneers Family Camper members traveled to Tucson Arizona to attend the annual International Rally of the TPFC. More than 80 camper couples were in attendance.

In may 2008, the Minnesota 10,000 Lakes Club of the TPFC held their own Spring Camporee in Clearwater, MN and twenty-nine people attended the event, we were fortunate to have many longtime members such as Doc Thielmann (probably one of the original members) Babe and Katie Bestgen join us for a group supper and waffle breakfast. Hosts of the Camporee were Lori and Pete Stunek.

New campers came to camp with us for the weekend, Jerry and Kris Swanson of Willmar joined the TPFC.

In the business meeting a motion was passed to donate \$ 100 to a charity named by the host of each Camporee. Every time we camp out a couple decides on the campground and the activities. A nominating committee was formed - Gloria Krohn, Kathy Hanson and Roger Hanson to put forth names of candidates for a 2009 wagon master.

Our next campout will be at Sunnybrook Park in Wadena MN the weekend of August 15-17 . Information about motels in the area will be posted on the Family Campers link at www.mnpioneers.com for anyone who wants to be part of the fun but has no camper.

A Mystery Trip will be hosted by Barb and Dave Hemmer on September 18 - 20 .

The Spring Camporee already planned for 2009 and will be hosted by Dallas and Lorna Leier.

Submitted by Roger Hanson

Community Service - As in 2007, our clubs and councils are off to a running start for 2008. They have responded to many opportunities already this year, with the floods, tornados, and other natural disasters. Our councils and clubs have made a great impact in their locations.

We continue to support the young people and work with ARC, MS, the Kidney Foundation, March of Dimes, Red Cross to name only a few of our projects. Hug-a-Bear has again been pressed into service by the Hugo tornado and our cookie ladies continue to WOW our troops.

Betty and Vollie Sanders hope to continue to support our councils and clubs where they can with their projects.

Remember business cards are available; all we need is what information you want on them.

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

Cookbooks / Scholarships - Normal mailings from downtown office. The cookbooks are moved to C basement from S. Paul. Assuming it is finished...

Scholarships - There were 40 valid entries and 1 late entry.

Winners:

cc - Ellen Seltz from Winona n -
Nicole Borwege from Faribault x -
Brianna Vick from Caledonia y - Clara
Johnson from Red wing

The others who received votes were;

nn - Whitney Pomeroy from Ramsey
w - Megan Coughlin fro Rochester
hh - Zoe Lidstrom from Caledonia
u- Genie Adler from Winona
kk - Travis Strehlow from Clear Lake
11 - Kelsey Norton from Rochester
g - Bryan Horvat from Red Wing

Submitted by Paula Trapp

E=Z Help - Gary Greb: No Report Available

Life Member Report - Do not have much to report, since last meeting, Sally attended the Central Council/ Harley Forsythe Life Member Club Spring Fling in St. Cloud on April 24* ; the Metro council meetings on April 28th and may20th: and the Metro Life Member Club meetings on March 26th and May 28th .

Mavis attended the Metro Council meetings on February 19th, March 18th and May 20th. She also attended the Metro Life Member Club meeting on May 28th.

Submitted by Sally Bolster & Mavis Hjulberg

Management Liaison - No report. John Stanoch's office informed Kathy that he had nothing to contribute for this meeting

Membership - On April 23, 2008 Pat Jeukens hosted a membership drive in the St. Paul building and got 27 new members - the best of all the chapters. The week of June 23, 2008 all the Qwest diversity teams are hosting diversity group membership drives at the 4 main buildings: Wayzata, downtown Mpls, downtown St. Paul, and Stinson. There will be food and treats. Morning and afternoon drives. Trying to set someone up downtown. Hopefully get members to volunteer at the drives. Will not have to have money out of our pockets, because the diversity groups will host it.

Duluth also did a membership drive and signed up 8 new members, which helped Minnesota become the winner in the contest having most new members (35 members) in the 14 states.

New members' names on the website too. Look under your club name you will see about the drive and the names of the new members.

Kathy received a letter from Crystal Adams, the director and she said there was a \$50 gift card available to give away in a new member drawing. All new members' names were thrown in a hat and Connie Duffney's name was drawn and is winner to receive the \$50 gift card.

Submitted by LuAnn Chambliss

Discussion on notification of Qwest retirements/death notices for database entry.

- **Jan Swenson** - Reminder: Qwest retirees and deceased. Jan is no longer being notified of recently retired employees. Council presidents at council meetings be sure to encourage your members to call in to join pioneers. Supposedly retirees are getting membership forms in their retirement packets, but have had only one person from the metro area notify Jan of their recent retirement end of April/May. Same with the deceased, Qwest is no longer notifying Jan of deceased employees. We continue to catch some through return mail, reports from obituaries, etc.
- **Dave Hemmer** - Metro Central and Duluth are all very good about sending Dave notices of members that have died because they want the members' names on the web page. If Western Plains and Lakes could have someone scan the obits in local papers and send the names of Pioneer members to Dave. He will, a) put it on the web page so pioneers will know of the deaths, b) Jan Swenson will automatically be notified of the deaths so Jan can get it on the database.

MS TRAM Report - In or about January 2008 our team, Qwest for the Cure, was registered for the TRAM. The MS Society requires you to have 4 riders to constitute a team and we had 6 last year. Now we have Gary Greb joining the team.

One-by-one team members started dropping out and we now have a team of two, Gary Greb and Al. Al received the \$1,000 check from the Chapter and the check was dated February 26, with a 90-day expiration date. At that point did not think we had a team. Gary in his diligence emailed John and asked for 2 more team members, but Al also emailed John to say we did not have a team. Al waited until the last few days before the expiration of the check and on May 19th Al split the check between himself and Gary. In the future, Al will be a rider, not a team captain.

MS TRAM Jerseys - After Al signed our team up for the TRAM we had 3 riders, but we are now down to two. When we had 3, I did start the process for the jerseys. Contacted the company in Denver, which had done jerseys for other states and they got back to me right away and the process was on the way or so I thought. I contacted John Stanoch about paying for the jerseys and that was

the easiest part of the process. Between John and Leann, they made the money part easy for me. The company in Denver never told me that if I don't have a \$1000 order, there would be an extra charge of \$80.00. Then they never told me that I had to order at least 5 jerseys. John had given permission for 4 jerseys in case we got the fourth rider. If someone was interested in riding they had to sign up (\$50.00) with the MS Society and it needed to be done before the 15th of April. (That is the jersey process). Riders also need to raise \$300.00 in pledges. It needed to show up on the Qwest for the Cure page. I also contacted the company in Glenwood that Vollie Sanders recommended; they have done the shirts for the Aquatennial. They don't do jerseys because it takes special ink. During all this, JoAnn Cooper (Arrowhead President) from Duluth contacted me and asked a few questions about the jersey. I sent her a the picture I had from the company in Denver and her sister made one up and they sent it to me. It is one nice shirt and is only \$55.00 - no set-up charge etc. The shirts from Denver were going to costs \$60.00 plus other charges. Well because we do not have a team, I contacted Kathy Hanson and asked her what I should do. She said because money was approved for jerseys to go ahead and order them. So that is what I did. We may not have a team, but Al and Gary will do us proud and wear the jersey with pride. Al suggested putting Pioneer emblem on the back of the jersey.

Submitted by Al and Carol Barthel, MS Tram Co-chairs

MS TRAM 2008 - Rest Stop #3 is well into the planning for another year of providing service, smiles, and bell ringing for the 1,000 plus riders who will raise money by riding. We have arranged for RV camping Sunday Through Wednesday at the Iron Rail RV Park in Chisholm, MN and at the Saginaw Campground for Thursday and Friday. Dates are July 20th - July 25th and riders average 60 miles per day.

As of this date I have the following signed up to work all week

Carol Barthel	Dave & Barb Hemmer	Bob & Ginny Boom
Bill & JoAnn Lovegren	Roger & Kathy Hanson	Galen & Gloria Krohn
Arvid & Marge Benson	Linda & Dave Massman	Megan Studanski
Ralph Judd	Sue Anderson	Stacey Tsantir

19 volunteers - 6 non-Pioneers

Committed to work a day or two, but haven't advised me of the days yet:

Vollie and Betty Sanders	LuAnn Chambliss
Ralph and Ada Hunsted	Martha Johnson
Gloria Berger	Angie Palomo

8 volunteers - 2 non-Pioneers

Dave will be ordering 2 T-shirts (approved by-the membership via a teleconference) for each worker for a total cost of approximately \$405.00. If you are interested in working at Rest Stop #3, please let me know.

MS Society has been really good to us; we are getting lots of publicity for everything we do. Always seems there is a Pioneer face on their brochures and their posters.

Gloria Berger wondered if there was such a thing as a "tag team" or 5 people riding per day instead of just one person. Instead of one person donated a whole week, 5 people take the place of one person, each riding a day. Dave said yes he is aware of some groups doing this, but he is unsure of the specifics.

Submitted by Dave Hemmer, Rest Stop #3 MS Tram Co-chair

Participation - Well not sure what to say about this program. I have so many hours and emails into this program that I feel it is a part of me. Needless to say, it doesn't work the way the people in

Denver says it is supposed to work. Plus, it is a lot more work. I have figured out how to make it less work but I am sure they don't like it in Denver. Not sure just how many hours we have in the state of MN, but I do know for sure we have 10,124 because I have started to keep track on my own spreadsheet. We have 65 active projects and I can't print a summary like I used to. I have to go into each project and get the hours. But not always can I get the report and not always is the report accurate. So I will just plug along with this program and hopefully they will get all the bugs worked out. I emailed just last week and asked about them doing my reports for this meeting, They got back to me and said, " We are still experiencing problems with your account, we have a fix in mind, but I do not believe it will happen in time for your June 6 meeting. Please let them know that it is our fault and not your lack of hard work that is affecting the issue." They are sending it to their tech department. They also said, "If the chapter does not believe you, they can call and we will tell them that you can't get your reports because of a problem." I chuckled at that, as I have tried calling and I have asked them to call me, but needless to say, that didn't work either. I am continuing to add the hours and I am all updated. If a council has a new project I do need to know just what it is as I have to input all kinds of info on the project. I still can't add more than 24 hours per person per month, so I just add it to the bulk hours. To date, every hour that anyone has given me, is in the program - somewhere.

Continue to send your hours, they all get put in. Anyone that sends me hours -1 do save them in a paper file too.

Submitted by Carol Barthel

Power Up to Read / Readers for Life - Jan thinks with the Readers for Life Program and because we are hitting the end of the school year things are going to put off to the fall. Joe, Donna and Jan went to the last day of the scholastic book fair sale and got a lot of the books, so there is a good supply of books for the fall and the next Power up to Read sale will probably be in December like it was last year. For the 2007-2008 year, we received \$7,500 to purchase books for grade school students. Over 1,650 books were distributed in 4 presentations: 500 + books to Bancroft School in Minneapolis, 150 books in a combined Power Up to Read/Readers for Life Program celebration in Faribault, 367 books to Lincoln School in St. Cloud and do not remember the books to the Riverside School in Rochester, MN.

There are over 2,300 books available for the school where we will be doing Readers for Life Program beginning this fall. Over 1,800 will have stickers noting donated by MN Chapter 18 Pioneers in the near future. Joe, Donna and Jan will probably go over to Wayzata and sort books by grade level after we have put stickers on.

Qwest foundation has donated funds again and Jan will be asking for more Chapter funds again in New Business. The region wants to do a region-wide project award for Readers for Life Program at the Annual Meeting in 2009.

Jan will send out an email to the Pioneer group if anyone wants to join them in sorting and putting on labels. Anyone has any questions let Jan know⁷, otherwise they are looking for schools we haven't done. If you know of schools where they may be having reading problems and need reading skills developed let Jan know.

Kathy suggested one in the eastside of the metro in St. Paul.

Ralph Hunstad asked where the funds are coming from for the purchase of these books. Jan said from the Qwest Foundation, as one of their goals is education and Chapter funds. In 2007 at the Annual Meeting I received \$7,500 and we voted to add another \$2,000 from the Chapter. So it is money from our own Chapter and the Qwest Foundation.

Submitted by Jan Swenson Co-chair with Donna Ness

Harry Osborn mentioned a clever saying he picked up at a meeting in Austin, TX, "these books are designed so a child learns to read, then they will read to learn."

Project Connect - Joe Swenson -No report

Web Master Report - Web hits last couple quarters really down but in this past quarter up again. We are getting a lot of web hits right now. We had over 4,700 hits on our pages this last quarter. The winner is the calendar page - everyone wants to see who won the calendar money. For that reason Dave does not want to see the calendar project go away.

Also, Current News is getting a lot of hits and that is because everyone is doing a better job of sending me things like obits, retirements, etc. That is what people are looking for. No one wants to see old news on a website, they want to see something new. The old stuff- they do not want to see over and over again, but Dave has got to get it from you - not going to build a web page based on his own information. Also getting a lot of hits on the Projects pages and for some reason the Executive Board page is getting a lot of hits. That says lots of folks interested in knowing who the officers are, possibly to get a phone number, or email address or something like that.

Qwest Benefits page had 80 hits last quarter. That means that 80 people want to see what this is about or maybe make a change in their personal information. Dave is thinking that he needs to put a page out there now to make Pioneer address changes, etc. We could have a form built that they can fill out with updated information for the Pioneer database to be sent to Jan Swenson, since we are not getting information from the Qwest database. Jan suggested noting retirement dates on form as well.

The council and clubs are doing much better about getting me information. Getting more data right along. However, not getting a lot of information from some councils and clubs - you know who you are. It is not Metro, Duluth, or Central. If Dave gets the information it goes on the website. Pictures are great, but need captions - who is in the picture and what the picture is all about. Should not send pictures without a story to describe what is going on in the picture.

Also, emphasizing, especially to our president, that Qwestpioneers.org/Minnesota should be advertised as our web address. We buy more gas if we send them to www.qwestpioneers.org/minnesota/ and the hits are credited on the Qwest website, when sending out business cards, please note this web address.

Just a reminder, you have approved the \$300 purchase of Go to Meeting software, but Dave does not get to use it as much as he could. If you need help with your computer or want to do electronic vouchers, or learn how to attach pics to your emails, Dave will help you with this. However, you have to have high-speed internet.

Submitted by Dave Hemmer

Council and Club Reports

The Arrowhead Council started the year with a lot of changes - Gloria Berger stepped down as president and talked JoAnn Cooper into taking over.

First objective was the March food drive. The spaghetti luncheon collected \$419.25; we received gas cards as donations to raffle, collected \$63.00 on them for a total of \$482.25, which was divided, between the Union Gospel Mission and CHUM. Our council also voted to send \$200.00 to the local food shelves in Hibbing, Grand Rapids and Virginia and \$400.00 to the Duluth food shelf.

Next item was to sign up new members, we held a membership drive April 30 - signed up 6 new members that day, and have since added two more.

Our current project is the fundraiser for the Military - The Spirit of Service Ride 2008, this is a motorcycle ride to raise money for two military organizations, Minnesota Military Family Foundation and Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans. This has been an exciting yet challenging venture. We are hopeful to have a good turnout, have heard from many motorcyclists that they plan to participate. Personally, I am hoping for 200+ bikes.

Since this is Jo Ann's first fundraiser and coming into the presidency early this year - she had not established a working budget (thank goodness for an understanding husband). All expenses incurred, so far, have had to absorb, and Jo Ann's main goal is to get a decent amount to present each organization. Hoping to count on all of you to help support our great cause.

We are just starting to get donation items in for the raffles, at this time we have:

- A quilt - made by Gloria Berger
- A case of motor oil-donated by Amsoil
- Overnight stay at Black Bear Casino with 18 holes of golf and a cart
- Tickets to the International Wolf Center in Ely
- T-shirts and a sweatshirt from the Runway Bar & Grill, along with 6 lunch tickets
- Various gift certificates for local bars
- 2 windbreakers - donated from Make Your Mark Specialties
- \$50 gift certificate for a beveled edged mirror from Superior Glass
- \$50 gift certificate from Mobile Image
- Crystal Adams has offered to send us a Qwest Pioneer golf bag, putter, show bag, golf balls and a tee bag. AWESOME.

We would like to ask the chapters and councils to be sponsors. To be a sponsor, it costs \$200 and your name will go on the T-shirts that will be given to the riders and will be sold as well. Besides that, we would like to have someone from each council to help with the event or ride in the event.

Leann called from John Stanoch's office; they are sending some Qwest hats and shirts.

This motorcycle ride, will end with a picnic/dinner (\$25.00) donation in Carlton - were everyone is invited, no motorcycle necessary. She is going to do a mass mailing of 3,000. You could save money on the mailing of the flyers if you go through the company and use the proper codes for postage. Jan Swenson can take the flyers using the correct codes and send it to the mailroom to mail.

Dave has our flyer and forms on our website.

Submitted by Gloria Berger for JoAnn Cooper

Central Council - On April 24 we had our Spring Fling Social and there were about 50 people in attendance, less than we hoped for but we still had a good time. John Stanoch was our guest speaker, and I passed out some certificates of appreciation and concluded with door prizes.

One of the projects that we started in Central Council is the "Talking Books." We have a chairperson, Marlin Parker and I gave him the info on who to contact. He did that back in Feb and they were very slow in getting back to him. After Marlin made a few phone calls they finally sent him the kits to fix the machines. So they set up a room at the Little Falls Telephone Office. They sent him a video and Marlin called the workers to watch it. The person from New Mexico was supposed to come and train the guys in the middle of May and nothing has come of that. Guess they don't need the help as badly as they said they did.

We took 60 caps to the Coborn's Cancer Center in April and they were very appreciative of them. They told us some of the last batches of caps were taken to the St. Cloud Hospital as they were needed there also. There is a picture and letter on the web.

Each quarter we allocate \$250.00 for the Chore Club, helping the poor stay in their homes. We will be painting a house as a council project on June 12 .

We do have some members moving the grass out at Camp Ripley. We also had people helping with the Veterans Turkey Hunt which was a success.

Carol made up two appreciation awards, which were presented to Barb Hemmer for the wheelchair bags that she makes by the millions and her support on the program and Dave Hemmer who gets the "Phony" award because of his help and taking charge of the cell phone project.

Submitted by Al Barthel, Council President

Harley Forsythe Life Member Club - St. Cloud - In February we had our Valentine party/meeting at the Whitney Senior Center. There were 22 members and partners in attendance.

March was our breakfast at the Perkins restaurant and our Chapter president and her husband graced us with their attendance. Kathy gave a report of the meeting that she had attended in Texas. There were 16 members and partners at the breakfast.

April was our annual spring luncheon meeting in Little Falls and we had 37 members and partners in attendance. Many of our life members attended the Spring Fling that was sponsored by the council.

We do not meet in May, June, or July and will have our Annual Picnic at Riverside Park August 12 and I will send out a notice on that.

Next week our Life Members help council paint a house and notification of the upcoming events will be out in July.

Submitted by Elsa Ditty, Life Member President

Chapter President's Report - Chapter presidents have a conference call monthly and there are lots of things shared, but this information is not always mentioned in our meetings. So I decided to make a report as well. We had a talk from people that promote different affiliations of programs like 1% to Education Plan that you can enroll in if you want to pay your bill online. Then 1% of your bill we to will be donated to a school of your choice. Pioneer Banking Center that has CDs and loans and things like that and a direct awards program where if you refer someone to buy a certain product that you can have the award based on a product that person purchases and that money can come to the chapter to help our funding, thus helping this chapter have more available funds to disperse and use for its programs and projects and all of the things we want to be involved in. These royalty opportunities benefit the Pioneer bottom line and our ability to donate and support our causes.

If you need information on any of the affiliation programs please email me and I will put you in touch with someone that will send you posters and handouts. Use your Newsletters and President letter to members to advertise!

When you newsletters go out to get out - Email Kathy - Let's all do our part to keep Pioneering a robust organization.

Use your newsletters and President letter to members to advertise these affiliation programs as well. Not just good for the companies bottom line, but the pioneers' bottom line as well.

In the year 2008 there is a focus for each quarter of the year. *The 2nd Qtr focus* is on the Support of the Troops and Veterans - those serving and those that have served. Many activities like the Metro Life Member Veteran's Home Painting Project, Operation Share, Metro Council Troop Support

Project and Arrowhead Qwest Pioneer Spirit of Service Ride in Duluth to Support Troops and Veterans.

3rd Qtr focus: August to September 2008 timeframe we want you to organize events to collect Back to School Supplies (Backpacks with school supplies in them). In Hiawathaland we usually have a picnic and everyone brings things for a collection at that time. Lots of schools that need clothes needed by kids unprepared, socks, extra shorts for phys-ed, T-shirts, perhaps buy a few dozen cheap tees at Michaels and gel a learning message to motivate kids - or whatever else you can think of).

4th Qtr Focus: Cold weather needs for people who are in shelters or for people that need mittens and hats. Those are the focus of our quarterly projects.

Probably late 3rd quarter or A¹ quarter of the year Qwest Pioneers will be implementing new cell phone recycling project. Does not need to replace the 911 EZ Help project that this chapter does right now, but we will need to find out if we need a new committee chairperson for that or if Gary Greb wants to transition into that as well as be in charge of the 911 EZ Help project. They are setting up contracts with people that will probably just supply boxes where we will place in certain locations to collect used phones. Then we send them in to a company that deposits money in our accounts.

I do not know how the accounting will be separated, if Arrowhead collects so many phones, then you get the funds for your chapter or the funds are go into the chapter and divvy it out to each club and council. They have not shared the details, other than that they are working on it.

Each club and council should do their own event focused on collecting school supplies. You can bring the information to each of the quarterly meetings to share with the chapter.

There are lots of newsletters put out in many states and we send them to the region. Some of the newsletters have articles in them about the USW/NWB Retiree Association. Those are not appropriate to put into the Qwest Pioneer Newsletter. Each organization must stand alone. Qwest supports Qwest Retirees Association, but they do support the Pioneers.

Submitted by Kathy Hanson, Chapter President

Discussion:

Paula - Chuck sometime back I sent you an email on the truck. What is the status of the truck? Everything goes well, it will be wrapped up this month. I know we have the rest of the bill to pay. Total was \$5,000 something and we have paid \$3,000 something.

MS Tram - we have all of our volunteer T-Shirts in the Chapter office that we pay for. Are we going on doing something different now where different people can order different volunteer shirts for your own special events. **Kathy:** Cindy Barnes Pharr said that there is no extra charge for blue volunteer T-shirts and when they are needed ask hers. Dave: and as far as the MS TRAM goes, we include the blue volunteer T-Shirts as far as out attire. We work for 5 days and so we get a blue and we get an MS Tram from the MS Society and we get 2 T-Shirts that Chapter has bought and paid for. So everybody that works at the MS Tram could get at least 3 - 4 T-Shirts. **Paula:** The Chapter needs to see here's what we get from Surry and here is what we get for free. Is everybody happy with the free shirts or do you still want to order from Surry.

Hiawathaland - Our last meeting was February 27th and our next meeting is June 11 .

Winter Project: Operation Nice sent 20-25 boxes to soldiers in Iraq.

Spring Project: Beep Ball Easter Egg Hunt at the Blind School in Faribault. What fun and what a good turnout of Pioneers. The Blind school was glad to have us back. Everyone was happy.

A Pioneer bunch who meet each month from Austin and Albert Lea pass around an envelope for donations. Last year they purchased 186 pounds of food for the Salvation Army.

Readers for Life event in Rochester: John Stanoch's office coordinated the event. *Viking and Spirit* along with a drama group from the Rochester High Schools entertained everyone. Very well received.

Work is being done at the Telephone Museum at the Mower County Fairgrounds. There was a water problem, but the museum is open by appointment and during the Mower County Fair in early August.

40 letters were sent by me with scholarship applications to all high schools in Hiawathaland.

Projects in Progress (PIP) - Another member and I are updating our membership list. I received 12+ returns from addresses unknown. Calling to confirm the addresses. The people I've called enjoy the calls.

- We are working on getting new members from an operator employee list from the Owatonna office that has closed. Some of these employees had signed up but the paperwork was lost. I discovered this during my calling. So we are getting new members that way.
- Working on getting cookbooks into a commercial business right off 35W
- Working on a book giveaway/ Readers for Life program for the LeSueur elementary school.
- I have Power Up to Read books and instructional material and locations. I need to know the rules and regulations to explain to the receivers of this material. What do they have to do, do they have to go through a course?
- I also need to know rules and regulations for having Readers for Life/Literacy reading sessions in 10-12 Qwest towns. This is also an opportunity for Pioneers to get together in these locales plus letting the towns know Qwest is alive and well. Also, are there books and /or funds available for a project like this?
- Pioneer Picnic is scheduled for August 9th at 11:00a.m. at Medford Park.
- Summer Project: Collection of school supplies at the Pioneer Picnic.

Submitted by Janet Lozon

Harry Osborn held up a lap robe and told us about its creator, Lee Jensen a very active and dedicated woman that makes the lap robes to donate. This one has been donated for our Fall Festival lunch on November 8th. It is her 368th lap robe to be given away; however, she has made many more. She never counts the one that she has completed, only the ones she gives away. If anyone knows anyone that needs a lap rope, someone in a wheelchair maybe.

Kathy Hanson introduced Doc Thielmann who gave endearing account of his history with the Pioneers.

Metro - We helped out with Beep Easter Egg Hunt, really fun.

St. Paul membership drive on the 23rd with 27 new members. We had an Operation Share Celebration for Linda Anderson, the Chair. Linda will be stepping down as the chair and we are currently looking for someone to take her place. They had a Cookie Bakeoff and voted for the best cookie maker. Sold the cookies and the leftovers and money went to the troops.

We have had 2 Pioneer Store Skyway sales on May 8th and 15th with another one coming up on the 18th of June.

Birthday In a Bag continues to be a really good project with others joining the project. Many donations from suppliers and vendors. Filled bags on May 31 and June 8. More and more people joining.

Ronald McDonald Day - delivered 125 bags and participated in a tour.

MS Camp Courage - Casino Night May 5th with 7 volunteers and 87 Campers; 25 men and 52 women - two Care Cabins. Next one is 18th of August if you want to participate talk to Paula and she will get you on the list.

Tubman Family Wing Ding - May 29th - 9 volunteers - sponsored Silent Auction - auctioned off 165 items. 24 vendors.

St. Joseph's Home, Home free and Agape delivery of *Just For You* bags and knitting scarves and hats for clients at those organizations. Doing Christmas stockings this year. Decorating and giving to the needy centers.

Feed My Starving Children, MS Christopher Banks walk.

Fund Raiser - Cash Value Cards Multiple merchants all over twin cities have the card. Whatever you spend the participating merchant takes a percentage of what you spend and that percentage is donated to card - half to the card owner and half to the charitable organization.

Bunch of us going to Fuddruckers on 6/23 - Using the card at Fuddruckers on any Monday night doubles the percentage. Easy fundraiser, easy to work with and easy way to raise money. Go to Fuddruckers to pick up the card and then you can go to the website to find out more.

Metro Life Member Club - Since the last Chapter meeting the Metro Life Members Club has had two quarterly meetings. The March 26* Luncheon meeting had 29 people attending. We recognized Marge and Mary Paul (our Operation Share Cookie ladies) for their efforts and presented them with an American Flag from Iraq. This meeting was also dedicated to a local food shelf. We donated 103 lbs of food and \$30 cash to the N.E. A. R. food shelf.

Our May 28th Life Member meeting had 30 attendees. This was Children's T-Shirt Day. We collected and donated 29 new summer T-Shirts and \$55 cash for St. Joseph's Children's Home.

Since the last chapter meeting, life member pioneers have volunteered with the NKF "Gift of Life" as phone confirmation callers and at the registration table. The Metro Club North and South Hug-A-Bear groups continue to make and distribute bears to various organizations.

Operation Share continues to thrive, and several pioneers along with our cookie ladies were at the Anoka CO. for a fundraiser in April.

Many of our life members were involved in selling roses in March and April for ARC of Minnesota.

Life member volunteers also led a group of volunteers who helped paint a day room for the Minneapolis Veterans Home in April. Kathy Hanson was there and had lots of fun.

Future Volunteer Opportunities:

The Life Member Club Metro will be painted another day room at the Minneapolis Veterans Home on June 14th. We also have several members who have volunteered to work at the National Kidney-Foundation Golf Tournament in June. Through all this, we still manage to have some fun social outings. In May we had 114 people join us on a trip to St. Croix Casino, and on June 19 - 40 lucky people will get to see "Church Basement Ladies II" at the Plymouth Playhouse.

Submitted by Bob Clark, President Metro Council

Western Plains - Ralph Hunstad had a Spring Fling at Montevideo in April. 37 members were present. Gave five \$5.00 (\$25.00) drawings and four plants as door prizes.

Dorothy Benson will open museum at Jackson if anyone wants to visit. Our next meeting is on June 24, 2008. Will have more information at next meeting.

Submitted by Charlie Hecht

Old Business

Dave Hemmer: Want to discuss Qwest for the Cure Team associated with the MS TRAM. We don't have 4 riders to make up an official team. Do not see how Qwest can be properly recognized for donations of thousands of dollars to the MS society if we do not have team and we do not have a team. Dave thinks that we should have a team and the only way we can have a team is to pay \$50 each for 2 phantom riders and use part of our pledges that we have to make sure the phantom names get the minimum of \$300 of pledges assigned to their names and then we meet the criteria for having a team and then Qwest for the Cure team can get credit for the dollars pledged. The real cost is the \$100 for the entrance fee, because that does not count as a donation. I think this is a decision that needs to be made as a group.

Dave Hemmer made a motion for Chapter send a donation of \$100 to the MS Society to cover registration fee for two riders. **Jan Swenson seconded. Motion carried**

Announcement - Thursday, June 12* meeting at 8:00am in Waite Park to paint a house - will have it all done by 12:00noon. Dave cooks brats! Address of home will be on website.

New Business

2009 Officer elections of President and Vice Presidents for chapter, councils and clubs due by September 1, 2008. Although year in office does not start until January of 2009, names need to be in place so the regional office can make reservations for the new incoming officers to attend the training October 24, 25 and 26, 2008. Kathy has formed a nominating committee for Harry's VP position: Jan Swenson, past President, Bob Clark, and Carol Barthel. If anyone has someone in mind, give names to Jan, Bob or Carol. Pat Jeukens is willing to put her name in to be the 2010 Chapter President.

New Cell Phone Recycling Program is to support education focus of the Telecom Pioneers that is where the money will be funneled when coming to chapters, councils and clubs. Forgot to mention when we discussed adopting Cell Phone Recycling Program. It starts the late part of 2008. Have not gotten the details finalized.

Chapter President Annual Spending Limits - There are items that as a president, Kathy would like to purchase from the Pioneer website, so when attending events she would have prizes to give you, thank you gifts or if your clubs are having drawings, she would have something to share. As it stands now, the spending limit is \$25 without permission from the group.

Motion made by Harry Osborn to allow Chapter President to spend up to \$500 for items to distribute to members at events for the 2008 member year. **Vollie Sanders seconded motion. Motion carried.**

Discussion ensued with regard to accountability to the group; how money was spent, what worked well, what did not. Also discussed how your purchases might be coded. When you do purchase items, think closely about which account codes are used for the purchases.

Pat Jeukens' new project for chapter to consider accepting: Cooks for Kids, designed to help 48 families who stay at the Ronald McDonald House while their children are undergoing treatment for life-threatening illnesses at area hospitals. After a long and often exhausting day at the hospital, families look forward to coming back to the House for a "home-away-from-home," cooked meal.

The Ronald McDonald House welcomes groups who are able to prepare a meal once and those who wish to make a commitment to regularly serve meals on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis. Evening meals are served at 5:30PM. On the weekends, brunch is served at 11:30AM both Saturday and Sunday.

We would be plan, prepare and serve meals for 90 - 95 people. We pick the meal. Pat provided a general information packet with a page for meal suggestions and food preparation guidelines. Dates Pat has reserved for us are October 26th - November 9th - for Sunday evening suppers. Spirit of Service St. Paul team willing to work with us on this project as a service project. Looking for 10-12 volunteers. We could split up into two groups - one group prepares food, the other serve and cleanup. Kathy Hanson suggested creating committees; one that might plan the meals, another committee cooks the meal, another serves and cleans up.

Motion made by Dave Hemmer to accept Cooks for Kids at the Ronald McDonald House as a chapter project and to include \$350. **Pat Bohmer seconds motion.** Motion carried.

The group decided on the November 9, 2008 date.

Donation Requests:

Motion made by Harry Osborn to make donation in the amount of \$300.00 for the Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners organization. **Vollie Sanders seconded.** Motion carried,

Pat Jeukens brought 6 birthday bags to be donated to IOCP.

Discussion around interest income that comes to Chapter and is dumped as large amount into chapter funds. Vollie Sanders moves that we distribute the interest the same way we distribute all of the other funds that we receive from Denver. Discussion: That distribution is 25% to Chapter, 25% to Council and 10% to other council or clubs, dispersed just as we do fundraising and dues. Motion carried.

Motion made by Gloria Berger for \$500 donation from Chapter to go to the Arrowhead Council to cover expenses for the Qwest Spirit of Service ride and the ride benefits veterans' organizations. **Jan Swenson seconded motion.** Motion carried.

Jan Swenson made motion to transfer \$2,500 from our Chapter account over to the Readers for Life Program this fall. **Dave Hemmer seconds.** **Tabled to next meeting on September 12, 2008.** Motion carried.

Pat Bohmer made motion requesting a donation of \$300 to Operation Uplink Calling Card that will go to troops overseas. **Dave Hemmer seconded motion.** Motion carried.

Cheryl Wold: There is an award for Pioneers individuals. While looking through the awards book, be thinking of someone that could be nominated for that award. There is a lot of paper work to fill out if you nominate someone, but you could even send the paperwork to the person the nominee has done things for and they could fill it out. If you can think of anyone deserving of this award, the book

Kathy Hanson: Read thank you note to Qwest Pioneers for Walker Aprons "the residents really love them. From Gloria Leonard Woodland of Village Store in Brainerd.

Pat Bohmer made motion to donate \$250 to the Veterans Life Memorial in Washington DC. **Vollie Sanders seconded motion.** Motion carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted: Deb Caris, Chapter Secretary