

Minnesota Chapter 18 – Board Meeting
September 9, 2011 - Coon Rapids VFW Post 9625

Present:

- Pat Jeukens – Chapter President
- Jan Swenson – Membership & Calendar Chair
- Mary Malakowsky – Hiawathaland Council President (Jim Malakowsky – Partner)
- Betty Lee – Arrowhead Council President
- Al Barthel – Chapter Treasurer
- Ralph Hunstad – Calendar Co-chair (Ada Hunstad – Partner)
- Bob Lewis – Harley Forsythe Life Member President (Joan Lewis – Partner)
- Carol Barthel – Participation Chair
- Lee Poirier
- Mary Ann Neuman – Metro Council & Life Member President
- Molly Clemen – CenturyLink

Absent: Joanne Cooper, Bill Lovegren, Gary Greb, LuAnn Chambliss, Kathy Hanson, Donna Ness, Dave Hemmer, Chet Nettetstad, Mary Nemec, Chuck Hecht, Don Fennessy

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 by President Pat Jeukens. After the Pledge of Allegiance members introduced themselves.

Minutes of the June meeting were read and approved

9:30 Al Barthel briefly reviewed the treasurer's report and reported that 8 deposits were received by the Denver PAC that were unaccounted for. This issue is yet to be resolved. Motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted.

9:35 Discussion occurred regarding the status of the Pioneer truck. Dave Hemmer's detailed report about the poor condition (pieces and rust) of the truck in restorers field is attached. His resolution of the issue by selling the truck (that could not reasonably be restored per the original agreement) back to Jody Rossow of Rossow Performance and Restoration for the amount of \$3,686.23 (which is the amount the Pioneers had paid him for restoration) was discussed. All agreed that this was a practical solution to the issue and commended Dave for his effective leadership resolving this issue. A motion was made and approved to support this action and Dave's report about the situation.

9:45 Pat Jeukens reported that 1400 Care Bags are done. They are still sewing more bags. She attended the MACV Stand Downs in Duluth and Minneapolis/St. Paul where these bags were given out.. She planned to attend Stand Downs in Bemidji and Grand Rapids later in September. Other organizations will participate in the Rochester and Mankato Stand Downs where the bags will also be distributed.

9:50 Election of Chapter Officers for 2012. No report was received from Harry Osborn, Past President and Chair of the Nominations Committee about any additional candidates for Chapter officers. A motion was made and passed to approve Joanne Cooper as Minnesota Chapter 18 Pioneer President for 2012. There are no candidates for Vice President at this time.

9:55 Project - Dish It Up. Pat showed the orange T-shirts for the project. She will get further instructions about the project on Monday so watch for more details. Molly was supplied with a flyer about the Dish It Up project so she can put out an employee email. For the food collection in the Metro area, Pat will leave t-shirts at the Whole Foods stores along with shopping bags, collection boxes, flyers, etc. There is a special project code for Dish It Up – so please use that on any vouchers. Pat has already sold over 100 ‘cloth’ shopping bags in St. Paul, the Pioneer store has sold some and St. Cloud has sold over 125. Molly will make up some address labels with the Dish It Up logo that can be put on envelopes in case people want to send in cash donations. Bob will take signage for the boxes at the St. Cloud Liberty Mutual food collection location.

BREAK

10:30 Project - Prepared to Learn. Pat has held To Go Lunches (pulled pork sandwiches) in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Wayzata Blvd. The money raised was used to buy back packs. About 1200 were distributed

10:40 MS Tram Report – the Tram was even more of a success this year. Not only did Pioneers and friends staff Rest Stop #3 but the Special Riders Tent (for riders raising over \$1000) was moved next to Rest Stop #3. Carol and Al Barthel took over responsibility for this tent. Special treats, chairs, shade and wonderful volunteers greeted the riders at the Special Tent. The Family Campers supply many volunteers for this event and did so in grand fashion again this year. Over 1256 volunteer hours were reported for this event.

NEW BUSINESS – UPCOMING PROJECT/EVENTS

10:50 2012 Calendars – preparations for the 2012 calendar were delayed due to Jan’s recuperation but are on track now. 1300 calendars will be printed for 2012. Three scholarships will be awarded and the prize distributions will be the same as last year. 1110 calendars were sold for 2011 that resulted in \$5.92/calendar returned to the selling Council/Club. We discussed the improved

judging process that Jan put in place for 2011. Clearer directions, scoring aids and the general quality of the judges were reasons why the process has improved.

11:00 Lee proposed a small Thank You token be given to the sewers of the MACV bags. Seven people helped sew the bags. A motion was made and approved to purchase gift cards from Caribou for a total a \$35.00

11:15 Pat covered some of the organizational changes in the Denver Pioneer office. Crystal Adams and Cindy Barnes-Pharr are no longer with CenturyLink. Their duties will be performed by individuals in Monroe, LA (not sure of names – Janie Milby and Kristy LaCroix (?)) will be taking over Crystal's duties. Molly shared with us how she will serve as a liaison with CTL and can help us with interfacing with the company outside the Metro area.

11:25 A motion was made and approved to donate up to \$350 for supplies/food for the Chapter sponsored brunch at Ronald McDonald house (U of M location) on September 25th. The menu will be scrambled eggs, sausage, waffles, fruit, breads, and juice. Workers are needed for this event.

LUNCH

12:10 Chuck Hecht, President of Western Plains Council after many years of service wishes to step down. There is no one to take his place. In discussions with Chuck he as agreed to stay on until 12/31/2011 so that effective 1/1/2012 the Western Plains Council will be dissolved. Letters will be sent to Council members advising them the Council will be split between Central and Hiawathaland (based on their location) Details will be worked out in the coming weeks. Western Plains funds are being spent down (via donations) and any remaining money will be proportionately split between the receiving Councils. The necessary percentage distributions changes will be made for disbursement of funds coming to the Chapter from Denver.

12:20 EZ Help Cell Phone project – Lee questioned where the money from the phones sent to the recycling vendor are going. There are quite a few of those phones in Anoka that Gary Greb and Dave Hemmer dispensed. She questioned that since EZ Help is a Chapter project the funds should come back to the Chapter, not to local Councils. Pat will look into this and make sure it is directed correctly.

12:30 Family Campers 29 campers were in Jordon at the August 20th gathering. \$100 was raised and given by Kathy Hanson to the local food bank. An October gathering is planned. (Kathy and Dave/Barb are not at the Chapter meeting because they are attending the national Camporee)

12:45 Miscellaneous Reports

Database/Membership – Jan asked that anyone having information about retirements and death to please notify her. We are not getting any information from the company so we continue to rely on our members. This is a good opportunity to see if the policy might change under CenturyLink.

Readers for Life – Several events were held at libraries in the Metro area with TC Bear. Discussion was held about donations made to the Boys and Girls Club, and Horizon Health in Pierz. Perhaps other organizations will be sought out to receive books if no acknowledgement – thank you's are received from benefiting groups.

1:05 Per a motion previously made at this meeting a donation of \$435.04 (the cost of holding this Chapter meeting) will be made to the Dish It Up project

A motion was made and approved to donate \$100.00 to Post VFW Post 9625 (our hosts today) for their Christmas project.

A motion was made and approved to donate a set of Pioneer cookbooks to the MACV Gala's Silent Auction. Money raised at this event from Pioneer items will be directed back to the Dish It Up project. Al Barthel will check on the accounting process that should be used when donating goods.

Joe Swenson (who joined us in the afternoon) raised the question about the 'museum' items in St. Paul. He questioned what's to be done with it. This prompted a larger discussion of other telephone museums - where items can be donated or given to other Historical Societies or local museums (Jackson County Fairground museum)The question was raised if the items in St. Paul belong to the Metro council or the Chapter. No resolution was reached nor did anyone take on the task of getting an answer.

1:30 Motion was made and passed to Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann Neuman / for Kathy Hanson, Secretary
9/29/2011