

2012 2nd QUARTER CENTURYLINK PIONEERS EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

06-13-2012

Present:	JoAnn Cooper	Kathy Hanson	Al Barthel
	Ralph Hunstad	Ada Hunstad	Lee Poirer
	Carol Barthel	Pat Jeukens	Jan Swenson
	Mary Malakowsky	Jim Malakowsky	Elsa Ditty
	Barb Hemmer	Dave Hemmer	

Joann C. opened with pledge of allegiance

Kathy H. read minutes-2 corrections made. Pat J. moved to accept, Jan S. seconded -passed

Al B. gave treasurer's report- Grand Total Ending Balance as of 05/31/2012 is \$55,083.71 Jan S. move to accept, Pat J. seconded- Passed

Projects & Programs:

Caring & Sharing Calendar Fundraiser: Jan S. passed report and thanked judges who critiqued the **scholarship applications**. One winner was related to a Central Council member. Good spread around the state of students applying. Funds expected for scholarships from a Central Council member who made a bequeathment in her will have not been distributed.

Project- Supper at **Ronald McDonald** House on June 24 led by Pat J. needs at least 2 more volunteers.

Banner discussion – Joann C. will be trying to get additional banners and took a poll of councils and clubs as to which type (tabletop or ground stand) they prefer.

Project- **Spirit of Service Ride** July 21 in Arrowhead area – a fundraiser dinner in Proctor will be on June 13. Tickets are \$10.00 for dinner and raffle prizes. Accepting PayPal registrations and entry fees and donations to the Ride.

Project – **MS TRAM** will be held the week of July 22 and starts at Bemidji. Kathy H. gave an update on **fundraising**. So far \$4460.00 has been donated.

MS TRAM Rest Stop #3- Dave demonstrated his new cell phone gizmo called Square Up to swipe credit cards and accept donations for the MS TRAM. The Rest Stop #3 Pioneer volunteers will have a circus theme day and pass out red clown noses to riders.

CenturyLink and MN Twins will partner on **book distributions** to area libraries. We are out of the loop as CenturyLink is relying on volunteers from internal Community Service Teams and not on Pioneers.

Joann Cooper and Al Barthel attended leadership training in Monroe LA. National Pioneer Association is receiving no funding for Pioneers from CenturyLink and is not expecting any. Qwest funded Pioneers only through 2011. Al B. brought up that **Rules of Operation** will be the governing rules of the Pioneer Organization and all should review them.

Joann says she will send out the link to access the Rules. Joann suggested the Chapter should update these Rules each December with incoming new President of Chapter. Some changes contemplated if by-laws are changed, such as requiring dues from Life Member Pioneers. Attendees participated in a community service project.

Project- Mary M. reported the **Beeping Egg Hunt** at MN Academy for the Blind in Faribault was successful and Pioneers from other Councils participated which was appreciated as this is a chapter project and volunteers from the entire state are welcome.

Pat J. attended a **Veterans socks and underwear donation event**, at a MN Warriors hockey game a team whose players who are wounded veterans.

Old Business:

Sarah Powell of the PAC states the chapter needs to transfer funds from the previous Western Plains Club. These funds will be split between receiving council/club and Sarah will be advised as to what percentage will go to each.

A previously tabled motion to donate \$750.00 to Spirit of Service Ride was passed.

AI B. \$5836.00 25% to Metro and rest split equitably to remaining council/clubs

Ramp project workers need larger sized shirts per AI B. He has some smaller on hand to give back.

Jan Swenson needs to get the gambling permit, license numbers and print order for Caring and Sharing 2013 calendars to the printer. Discussion followed about raffles and drawings. This chapter will keep the gambling permit process in place.

New Business:

Pat J. made a motion for a \$200.00 donation to MN Warriors wounded veteran hockey team. Seconded by Ralph H. Motion passed

Pat J. moved that chapter authorize funds to purchase food, the amount to be up to \$300.00, for the Sept 30 Ronald McDonald House meal. Jan S. seconded. Motion passed

Pat J. moved to donate \$500.00 to MN Fighting Lions, a Beep Baseball team, to defray travel expense to Iowa national tournament. Jan S. seconded. Motion passed

Dave H. moved that chapter donated cost of this meeting be donated to the Whitney Senior Center. Lee P. seconded. Motion passed.

PayPal process was discussed. Dave H. has set up 2 accounts at www.mnpioneers.com for the Spirit of Service Ride and purchase of Caring and Sharing Calendars. PayPal sends a statement and the one and first Dave has received shows \$.88 per action was deducted by PayPal. Usually the rate of approximately 2.7% is deducted by PayPal. How do we handle how to be reimbursed in order for each PayPal payment to be donated made whole? An ad hoc committee to develop a plan for this issue was formed. Members will be Dave Hemmer, AI Barthel and Jan Swenson.

Square Up is a device that plugs into the earphone jack of a cell phone. A credit card can be swiped through the device to pass money from the credit card to the organization typed into the cell phone. A receipt can be printed on email to

the donor. Dave H. and Joann C. received a Square Up device to try for free. There is also a swipe fee on this device process. Can be used on smart phones, droids.

Use of either process could be worth having the selling entity "eat" the process expense, asks Dave, rather than have no sale at all. That is a decision to be made after hearing what the ad hoc committee has to recommend.

Dave H. shared he is retiring as President from Central Council and Bob Lewis is retiring as President of the Harley Forsythe Life Member club.

Lee P. states we should begin thinking of fundraising opportunities in the event avenues now available to us dry up.

Dave H. asks who is co-chair of Caring and Sharing Calendars. Jan Swenson says she will be that co-chair of the scholarship calendar fundraising project

Al and Carol Barthel are traveling to Washington D.C. to accept the Jefferson Award in recognition of their extensive community service work.

Pat J. suggested the Talking Books repair group could take a look at the Beeping Eggs to be sure they are all in working order. This is a possibility.

Council and Club reports will be posted on webpage so folks can review them there.

No other new business.

NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 12, 2012 (WEDNESDAY) IN THE DULUTH AREA –

Pat J. moved to adjourn, Jan S. seconded. Motion passed.

Kathy needs someone to take minutes at the Sept 12 meeting – any volunteers?

Submitted by: Kathy Hanson, Secretary

Clubs, Councils, and Committee reports attached

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Metro Council – 2nd quarter report- submitted by Mary Ann Neumann

- Since the last Chapter meeting on March 14th, the Metro Council had one meeting on April 18th. (Note the Metro Council is now meeting every other month – next meeting will be June 19th)
- Fund raising: the spring basket project headed by Lee Poirier brought in a net profit of \$674.22
- \$261.00 was brought in from the cell phone recovery program.
- Pat Jeukens headed up a volunteer crew that put on a Sunday night supper at the new Ronald McDonald house at Gillette's Children's Hospital in St. Paul. The cost of the supper was \$184.22. They served approximately 40 people.
- Sheryl Wold and Shirley McCurdy announced the schedule for Sidewalk Sales in the downtown Minneapolis building for the rest of the year. Dates are: May 2-3, June 20-21, August 22-23, September 19-20, November 12-13, November 28-20 and December 5, 6, and 14th. They are seeking new helpers for the sales – so spread the word.
- The following donations were approved: up to \$200 each for dinners at Ronald McDonald house (2 meals) – April 15th and a future date to be determined; up to \$200 to purchase towels for the Women's Advocate House; \$250 to sponsor Pioneer-Peggy Gawarecki's team for the Susan G. Koman 3 day Walk.

Metro Life Member Club – 2nd quarter report

- The Metro Life Member Pioneers held their spring Life Member luncheon meeting on April 18th with 25 in attendance.
- Our April community service collection was T's for Tots to Teens. T-shirts were collected and will be given to St. Joseph's Home for Children.
- Eight Pioneers died since our last meeting. We reviewed the charities that receive Remembering Our Own memorials for deceased Metro Life Members in 2012 (when the family doesn't designate where memorials should be sent). Memorials will be sent to: Diabetes Assn, Meals on Wheels, Salvation Army, Alzheimer's Assn, and Cancer Society. Funding for the Remembering Our Own program is supplied by the Metro Council.
- We set the agenda for the rest of the year: Casino trip in May; Church Basement Ladies outing in June; perhaps another casino trip in August (set for August 8th); September fun event (TBA); October luncheon meeting; November Casino trip and December Holiday luncheon meeting. We will continue to meet at Elsie's Restaurant. It appears to be very convenient for the regular attendees of our meetings. If we do get new attendees from other areas of the Metro region, we can look into moving the meetings as necessary.
- Motions were made and approved for the following donations: \$300 to the Ronald McDonald house (John Stanoch Qwest former MN President is their new CEO); \$200 to SAVE (Suicide Awareness) and \$200 to the Dignity Center.
- The North Hug A Bear group went to Broadway Pizza on May 8th for their annual appreciation lunch (approved at March Chapter meeting). The South Hug a Bear group is planning on bringing in Pizza and Wings to their July meeting for their annual appreciation lunch. (Voucher will be submitted for both lunches after the July event)

Lakes Council Report – submitted by Chet Nettetstad

The Lakes group of Detroit Lakes, Fergus Falls and Bemidji have had its Spring meeting and have helped out with food shelves and Meals on Wheels programs, along with working with OAKS program that will be doing the "Let's Go Fishing" event. Also looking forward to summer and working on projects.

Past President Report – submitted by Pat Jeukens

Went to the Beeping Egg Hunt at MN State Academy for the Blind in Faribault and donned the bunny costume. I Assisted students as they searched for eggs and handed out treat bags after the search was over. I Partnered with Cities Credit Union to collect socks and underwear for MACV during a Memorial Day hockey game. The game was played by the MINNESOTA WARRIORS, a team comprised of wounded war veterans. More than 400 items were collected and will be distributed to homeless veterans. I helped at the MS 150 fundraiser rest stop that hosted over 4000 riders. CenturyLink banners were displayed at all events. Please let me know of your events so I may support and/or participate.

Hiawathaland Club – submitted by President, Mary Malakowsky

We hosted the beeping Egg Hunt held in Faribault MN on May 3. This event is one that is enjoyed by the students and staff at the MN State Academy for the Blind. Thank you to all who came and helped out. It was a nice event.

Our annual picnic will be held in Mineral Springs Park in Owatonna on August 11, 2012. Come and enjoy a good meal and spend the afternoon visiting with old friends and former co-workers from the area. The menu is brats, burgers and all the fixings. Conversation, Catching Up and Camaraderie, what's not to like!

The holiday membership luncheon will be held on November 10. The location is the Eagles Club in Owatonna. We will serve a turkey dinner, have a short meeting and some interesting door prizes. We will start serving the meal at 12:00 noon. The Eagles club is at 141 East Rose Street. All are welcome to attend and enjoy a great afternoon with friends from the Telephone Company.

We are sad to report the passing of two loyal Pioneers, Jerry Wesley and George Knutson. We will miss them.

Harley Forsythe Life Member Club – submitted by President, Bob Lewis

Our 2012 fun filled Pioneer year continued with a breakfast meeting at the downtown Perkins in St.Cloud on March 13. Twenty-one Pioneers and Partners attended

April 10th we had our Little Falls luncheon at Pizza Ranch and 39 Pioneers and Partners attended that. We have traditionally held the Little Falls luncheon at the VFW in Little Falls. There were those unhappy about moving to a venue that did not sell adult beverages. However, when I included BYOB in the invitation everyone was satisfied. (We've been asked not to return to the Pizza Ranch).

Normally I would be putting together the calendar of events for our 2012-2013 Pioneer year mailing sent in July and kicking off with our Picnic in Riverside Park in St. Cloud on August 14th. However, I fear this may be the end of our formal Pioneer meetings. Leadership, as you well know, is harder and harder to come by. The organization cannot continue to prosper with the same people changing jobs to keep it running. Dave Hemmer is the glue that keeps Central Council Pioneers vibrant. As I understand Dave has resigned his presidency, I fear that there will be no one willing to step into that job. Those of us remaining are from the old guard, retired and tired. I became president of the Life Member Club not because of my talent or lack thereof, but because there was no one else and Elsa Ditty had been president for most of her adult life. Over the years I have watched the slow decline of a once dynamic organization.

I have not talked with Dave nor has anyone called me. At this time I plan to leave the presidency after the Chapter Meeting June 13. I would use the word resign, however, I don't think there will be Council or Club to resign from.

COMMITTEE AND PROJECT REPORTS SUBMITTED

PALS – submitted by Carol Barthel

Since our last meeting in March I have recorded 5, 482 hours. More have come in the last couple of days but I haven't had a chance to get those put in.

MS TRAM REST STOP #3 – submitted by Dave Hemmer, Rest Stop #3 chairman

By the time of the Chapter meeting many of our Rest Stop volunteers will have wetted their volunteer appetites by working at the MS 150 ride rest stop at Pine City, MN on Sunday June 10. This ride is much different than the MS TRAM in that it is only a two day ride but involves over 3500 riders. The TRAM event is a week long ride but usually around 1000 riders.

Rest Stop #3 volunteers are looking forward to another year of providing inspiration, service, and support to the hundreds of bike riders who are out on the roads and trails every day, for a week, raising money to help fund a cure for MS.

This year we have 1,000 foam rubber clown noses that will be handed out to riders and are making lots of decorations for our "Circus-Circus" theme day. Theme day was started at Rest Stop #3 three years ago and has added a new level of fun for the hard working riders who will again raise about one million dollars to fund research

This year our Rest Stop will again host the "Golden Gears" recognition tent. It will be managed by our own Kathy Hanson. Thank you for your support again this year!

MS TRAM RIDE TEAM “WHEEL DEALS”- submitted by Kathy Hanson, fundraising chair

There will a ride team in the 2012 MS TRAM raising funds for research to find a cure and treatments for Multiple Sclerosis, as well as programs to help those now living with the effects of MS.

Nine riders have made a commitment to be ride team members and recently Gary Greb has indicated he will be a rider too if his work schedule permits.

Last year’s goal of \$10,000 was ambitious. We are grateful for the generous support of the Chapter 18 Pioneer Executive Board and everyone who contributed personally and attended fund raising events.

Thus far we have raised \$250.00 in a garage sale, Chapter 18 approved a donation of \$200.00 per rider, up to 9 riders, and Hiawathaland Club is donating \$30.00 per rider, up to 9 riders. “Famous Rest Stop #3” commemorative buttons are being sold and those funds in an amount unknown at this time will be donated as well. A pancake breakfast fundraiser is scheduled for Sunday July 15 at a campground in Annandale.

WEB MASTER REPORT – submitted by Web Master, Dave Hemmer

Site Total	1149	Overall web site hits are down from last quarter
Chapter Minutes	45	
Councils & Clubs	23	Calendar Winners and Current News are getting the most hits this quarter
Executive Board	82	
Projects	73	
Arrowhead Council	83	
Central Council	23	Arrowhead Council had a nice increase this quarter
Lakes Council	32	
Hiawathaland Council	22	CenturyLink seems to have fixed the site of www.qwestpioneers.com . However, I think we should continue using www.mnpioneers.com
Mpls Life Members	28	
Metro Council	18	
Western Plains	11	
Products for Sale	106	
Family Campers	38	Overall, web hits are down but News and Arrowhead Council looks good this quarter
Links	68	
Calendar Winners	617	
Web Master	51	
Just Pictures	122	
Qwest Benefits	33	
Go Green	30	

2012 MN Chapter 18 John Norton Scholarships – submitted by Co-Chair, Jan Swenson

This year we had 6 judges again – 1 Pioneer Partner, Carol Barthel; 1 Life Member Pioneer, Vollie Sanders Sr.; 1 Regular Pioneer member, Charles Parker; and 3 non-Pioneers, those being DaNae Silvers, Sue Swenson, and Vollie Sanders Jr. The 6 judges read the anonymous essays on the applicant’s community service/involvement and rated them 1 through 9 (1 being the highest and 9 the lowest). If needed, the judges could use the student’s GPA to break a tie. Each judge also returned a signed conflict of interest form.

There were 11 submitted scholarship applications and 9 were judged and 2 were disqualified. The 2 disqualifications were: one for not enclosing a college acceptance letter and the other for being postmarked after the May 5th deadline. Each applicant was sent a letter indicating their application had been received. Checks and congratulation letters will be sent out to Rebekah Mix, Taryn Bednarek, and Molly Rae Hurd as soon as I receive the checks from Sarah Powell at the Denver PAC. Checks will be made out to both the student and the college they will be attending.