

# PrairieLand Visiting Animals Association

**May 10, 2022**

The PVAA meeting was called to order by Karen Simecka, president, @ 7:33 pm. Members present in person: Karen Simecka, Judy Knoll, Tim McHenry, Sharon Fricke, Julie Hoffman and Rachel Pantos; attending via zoom were Kathy Schlotterbeck and Nan Palmer. Introductions were made. Introductions were made and we welcomed Rachel. Her dog Penny (terrier mix) is working on becoming a therapy team.

## **Minutes:** Judy Knoll

- Minutes from 3/8/22 were reviewed & approved.
- Edited minutes from 8/17/21 were reported and approved.

## **Treasury Report:** Karen reported for Diana who was unable to be present

- Balance as of 5/10/22: \$1,822.95. That is made up of the General Fund: \$1,238.35, the Reading Program Fund: \$257.42 and the Donation Fund: \$327.18. Report was approved.

## **Chairperson's Report:** Karen Simecka

- Welcome to new members: Rhonda Knoerschild with Hazel her GoldenDoodle, Kat McIntyre with Chew Bear her Akita, Rhonda Teaford with Gabriel her ?? (Miniature Schnauzer?), Rachel Pantos with Penny her terrier mix and Christian Kramer with Montana a Poodle. She also mentioned 2 members joining late last year: Valora Hanzlicek with Max a Daschund and Sylvia Hamilton with Casey a Golden.
- Thank you notes were sent to Dr. Parman and Janet Zoble for their part in making the library's READ bench possible – it's the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event.
- A big thank you to Carolyn Buono for donating \$100 to our fund!
- We had a very busy month and participated in Paws in the Park, a Reading Workshop presented by Debby Martin, National Therapy Animal Day and finished last weekend with Bark for Life. Thanks to everyone who helped with these events. We love our volunteers and couldn't do this without them!
- I am signing off as READ Coordinator and need someone to train. Debby Martin was suggested. She is a reading specialist at 501 for years and is now at Topeka Collegiate.

## **Old Business:**

- The dues proposal previously presented was discussed. Dues would increase to \$30 per household (calculates to \$2.50 per month). Associate dues for those not active in the organization but interested in therapy animals would be \$20 per household. Both levels would be pro-rated on a monthly basis, so those joining mid-year only pay for the rest of the year. This would allow us to grow the organization, send members to conferences, provide workshops, etc. It would become effective June 1, 2022. There was talk of setting up a scholarship fund for any that can't afford it. Sharon moved and Tim seconded to approve the new dues schedule, motion passed.
- Discussed BATT (Become a Therapy Team) posters and distribution of same. The cost is \$.50/page with stickers about \$.49 each, so \$1 per page. Places include vet offices, doggie day care centers, groomers, the shelter. Motion was made and approved to start with 50.
- T-Touch workshop is September 17<sup>th</sup> at Prince of Peace Church from 1-4 pm. Cost is \$1000 for the 3

hour workshop. We would pay for it with \$300 from the donation fund, plus a \$30 member charge for those attending. If it's not full (20 participants includes 4 officers who will bring their dogs) of members by August 15, it will be open to non-members for a \$50 fee. Sign up with Karen and pay through the website. Motion to use \$300 from the donation fund was passed.

- The visit schedule was passed around for everyone to update. If your visits change, please notify Judy Knoll ([jemknoll@gmail.com](mailto:jemknoll@gmail.com)).
- The continuation of the newsletter, Prairie Tails, was discussed. There was some confusion between it and the emails Karen sends out. Production will resume, send articles or items of interest to Tim. Possibly add a "newbie corner" with tips for new teams (e.g. what to take on a visit)
- Mentor program – Karen, Kathy, Judy, Tim & Sharon have all volunteered. If you're interested in being a mentor or being mentored, please let Karen know.
- Discussed different facility requests: Providence Center, Hillcrest Elementary in Lawrence, Rescue Mission. VA is still not open to visits. Tim is doing a Rotary program in July, and talking to the CamoCross CGC class about therapy dogs. Ks Rehab is reopened for visits. Topeka Collegiate School loves having teams visit during the school year (Judy/Charley & Bobbi/Tate alternate weeks currently).
- Remember to like us on social media (Facebook & Instagram) as it increases our position when people search for PVAA on Google.

### **New Business:**

- Traveling Presentation Totes – Karen made two sets of presentation totes to take when making a presentation about PVAA and therapy animals. Each set has 3 posters (two are tri-folds) with members, becoming a therapy team and general PVAA photos, easels for the posters, a padfolio with brochures, cards, letters to sign for donations and stationery. The cost was about \$600, but PVAA is only paying \$174 and Karen is donating the rest. Motion made and passed. Thank you, Karen!
- Lindsay Kufahl is doing a fantastic job working on the bio's for the website. She's using Google Slides.
- Looking for volunteers for a Bylaws update committee. It's been 10 years. Ideally we would present suggestions at the August meeting and vote on them in November. Julie has some lawyer friends that could look it over. Rachel will help with editing, etc. Julie has the MO-KAN bylaws to use as an example.
- Discussed options of remembrance for long time member/advocate Barb Smith who passed away recently. Maybe a bench at the Bark Park, a water fountain plaque, an "in honor of Barb Smith Memorial Award" to someone that exemplifies the spirit of pet therapy.
- The next evaluation is July 30<sup>th</sup>, Julie's handlers class is June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Coming Events: June 5 – Reading with Prairieland Dogs starts at TSCPL, every Sunday from 2-3 pm for 6 weeks; June 11 – Annual Picnic at POP starting at 5:30, dogs welcome; Aug 16 – Meeting at TSCPL at 6:30 pm; Sept 11 - Reading with Prairieland Dogs starts at TSCPL, every Sunday from 2-3 pm for 6 weeks; Sept 17 – Ttouch Workshop at POP from 1-4 pm; Oct 1 – Oktoberfest @ POP church parking lot, time TBA; Nov 1 – Meeting at TSCPL at 6:30 pm (Anton Room); Dec 3 – Christmas party at Sharon Fricke's home at 5:30 pm., humans only and bring a dish to share

**Meeting adjourned @ 8:45 pm**

**Secretary,**

**Judy Knoll**