

PrairieLand Visiting Animals Association

Aug. 16, 2022

The PVAA meeting was called to order by Karen Simecka, president, @ 6:33 pm. Members present in person: Karen Simecka, Tim McHenry, Sharon Fricke, Julie Hoffman, Kathy Schlotterbeck, Debby Martin, Maisy Struve, Marti Kirkegaard, Rhonda Knoernschild, Jill Stewart, Mark and Kay Neuer, and Diana Zimmerman. Introductions were made and we welcomed the new members.

Minutes: Diana Zimmerman (subbing for Judy Knoll, secretary)

- Minutes from 5/10/22 were reviewed & approved.

Treasury Report: Diana Zimmerman

- Balance as of 8/12/22: \$2,334.966 That is made up of the General Fund: \$1,222.45, the Reading Program Fund: \$257.42 and the Donation Fund: \$427.18, and the T-Touch workshop registration fees of \$427.61. Report was approved.

Chairperson's Report: Karen Simecka

- Welcomed 12 new members: Erin Corbin – Kiah (lab), Laura Douglas – Louise (aussie), Tina Gibson – Gracie (mini-horse), Marti Kirkegaard – Lexi (schnauzer), Kay/Mark Neuer – Rosie (boxer X), Christie Patrick – Aster (b.collie), Debbie Sample – help with READ, Laura Sidelinger – Jake (beagle X), Jill Stewart – Ellie (G.doodle), Maisy Struve – Nala (lab), Sheryl Thowe – Journey (B.collie) and Teagan Johnson (gr.daughter of Thowe).
- READ program begins at library on 9/11 and goes until 11/16. Debby Martin is taking over the lead on this from Karen Simecka.
- Kansas Rehab Hospital has reached out saying they would love to have more teams visit. Debby Martin said she started visiting there and that they would love to have people on Sat and Sun as well.
- Love on a Leash has now been removed from our website at the request of their national director, citing a conflict of interest with other national organizations. Members who are registered through them will need to decide which other organization to register through in the future.

Public Education Coordinator (PEC):

- Tim McHenry has agreed to take on this new position and Karen read through the duties of this position which include community outreach, facility contacts, and community events.
- Tim reported that the Rescue Mission visits are not pursued right now as the mission seems to be in transition and stopped communication with him about it.
- Inland Health and Hospice would like to have team visits and Tim will send out more information about this to members.
- Tim did a presentation at the Sunrise Rotary Club regarding PrairieLand, what we do, and how they could support us through donations.
- Tim would also like someone to work with him to put together a power point presentation to use when he goes out to speak to groups in the community. Julie suggested someone she knows who could help with taking some video of visiting dogs and inserting those videos into the presentation. Maisy has a power point she uses when visiting places, and she is willing to share that with Tim.

Committees:

- VISITING SCHEDULE - contact Judy Knoll at jemknoll@gmail.com for additions, changes or corrections
- NEWSLETTER - contact Tim McHenry at timthetrainer@yahoo.com for any stories, news, brags, jokes, etc.
- SOCIAL MEDIA - contact Diana Zimmerman at dianazim16@gmail.com to add photos to our FB & IG

- WEBSITE - contact Karen Simecka at ksimecka1@gmail.com for any additions, changes or corrections
Julie reported that now that we are a 501c3 organization our website will be free, but we pay three years at a time, so that would go into effect after our subscription is up.
- READING COORDINATOR - contact Debby Martin at debbygm42@gmail.com for any questions or help
- MENTOR COORDINATOR - contact Karen at ksimecka1@gmail.com for new members wanting a mentor
Karen has been assigning mentors to any new member who asks for one.

Old Business:

- WORKSHOP - SEP 17TH TTouch Training Workshop with Pat Hennessey. Karen reported that there are 5 spots left and that it is now open to non-members for \$50. Nan Palmer donated \$100 so that two Helping Hands Humane Shelter employees could attend the workshop. The workshop is being held at Prince of Peace church.
- BATT (Become a Therapy Team) posters printed X 50. Karen asked if anyone would like to help her distribute these to vets, groomers & stores, and Marti and Kay volunteered.
- BYLAWS - 2012 bylaws are being reviewed, and Karen asked if anyone wanted to volunteer to be on the review committee with her. Rachel and Jill volunteered. The goal is to have the edited bylaws ready to be reviewed and voted on at the November meeting. There was a discussion about staggering the elections of different officers so there wouldn't be all new officers at one time. Sharon also suggested having two new members join the officers as "at-large" members so they could learn more about the organization and how we do things.
- BIOS - Lindsay K is working on the member bio pages with google slides and hopes to have these done soon. They will be uploaded onto our website.
- BARB SMITH memorial - Karen suggested that we table this for now since HHHS is busy right now with one of their annual events, and they were part of one of the suggestions for a memorial.

New Business:

- NOMINATING COMMITTEE for 2023 Officers: DIANA Z., BOBBIE SHINN & KAREN S. They are looking to fill the treasurer and secretary positions for next year because Diana and Karen are stepping down from their positions, and Judy would like to change officer positions. Tim is being nominated for chairperson, and Judy is being nominated as co-chairperson. Maisy said she would be willing to be considered for secretary. Julie and Mark are both interested in the treasurer position.
- PAYPAL FEE - Diana explained that PayPal fees cannot be passed along to the "buyer" as per the PP user agreement. Whatever amount is charged for someone using PP has to be the same as someone paying with cash or a check. This means that in the future when we collect money for things like a workshop or t-shirts we need to consider the PP fee before setting the price so Prairieland isn't having to make up the difference.
- NEW MEMBER PACKET TOTES - Karen reported that she is down to just a few totes and that we would need more soon. She suggested we purchase 25 more at a cost of \$6.00/each for a total of \$150. There was a motion and a second, and this was approved.
- Karen also suggested that we purchase weights for our tent that we use at outdoor events to help it stay put when it's windy. The cost would be \$25/each, and we would need four of them. There was a motion and a second, and this was approved.
- Sharon said she was looking for someone to take over the planning of the evaluation days for her. Julie volunteered to do that.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:50 pm