

PrairieLand Visiting Animals Association

March 8, 2021

The PVAA meeting was called to order by Karen Simecka, president, @ 6:30 pm. Members present via Zoom: Carolyn Buono, Karen Simecka, Judy Knoll, Denise Moore, Diana Zimmerman & Tiffany Zule.

Minutes: Judy Knoll

- Minutes from 11-2-20 were read & approved.

Treasury Report: Diana Zimmerman

- In January we added PayPal as a more convenient option for paying dues. There is a PayPal payment button on our website. There is a small fee per transaction and the funds in PayPal can be automatically deposited into our account at Core First Bank. Some members could pay an extra dollar.
- We are also looking at streamlining our membership form procedure by making it an electronic form that can be filled out and submitted online, thus cutting down or even eliminating mailing, copying scanning of forms.
- Another change is having the bank automatically pay any monthly credit card amounts that are due.
- Website is about \$185 for 3 years. Should come out in February but haven't seen it yet.
- Ending balance: \$2,001.85, That includes the Reading Program Fund: \$302.42 and Petty cash: \$23.91. Approved. Report filed with Diana.

Chairperson's Report: Karen Simecka

- Karen purchased 50 PVAA tote bags to give to those teams making visits (around 23-24). These are a donation to the club and good advertising. 25 will be donated to new members that go through the Pet Partners evaluation along with their new member packet. Would like to continue that when they are gone.
- She also donated books for the READ program: Madeline Finn and the Therapy Dog, the Shelter Dog and the Library Dog.

Public Education Coordinator:

- Sharon was coming back from Nebraska but didn't make it in time for the meeting. Karen reported that we had 2 evaluations in February with 7 going through and 4 passed (one was a cat).

New Business: Karen

- Website has been updated. "BECOME A THERAPY TEAM" tab explains everything involved and answers a lot of questions about becoming a new therapy team – great for newcomers. There is a comparison chart that shows 3 different programs and what they need to do for each organization. No one with Alliance of Therapy Dogs but have permission to include them. Julie helped Karen put this together.
- Diana is helping with getting the membership form online.

- Future projects: 1. Archiving old minutes – telling the Prairieland story. 2. Down Memory Lane – will take you back in time with pictures and stories from the past. If you want to donate/send pictures they're welcome.
- Social Media – Diana is taking over Facebook and Instagram. Send pictures with your name, dog's name, event, etc. Remember privacy rules and take pictures strategically – from side or back, without head, paw in hand, petting head – connection between the animal and the person.
- Non-Profit 501c3 – will benefit for our group in the future - cost only \$275 (one-time only). We have nonprofit status but not tax exempt. Could declare us a charity with some organizations (like Amazon Smile, Dillon's or Chewy.com) and a small amount of what is spent goes to us. It's \$600 if you collect more than \$50,000. We're eligible for the smaller fee. Advantages - Tax deductible contributions, reduced postal rates, reduced PayPal rates. Can write donations off on your tax return. We don't have to file income tax, unless we collect more than \$50,000. Only current filing is with secretary of state. Discussion and decision tabled until the next meeting to give everyone time to think about it and include others that aren't present.
- New Member Packets – folder with membership form, congratulations letter and tote bag. Includes list of where members visit, with ideas of where to go and spread ourselves out. Anything else you think of, let Karen know.
- Reading with Prairieland dogs – library is open, June is a question mark if allowing inhouse sessions. September should be positive to get back to it. We have about 8-10 teams, but need more. 3 teams with one monitor, 4 Sundays every Feb, June & Sept.
- Summer Picnic: Currently scheduled for June 5, but maybe September would be better. If Carolyn can get the church, everyone will be more comfortable with Sept. Tabled until next meeting.

Other Business: Karen

- Tim McHenry has a Pet Therapy prep class at Petsmart on Saturday, March 13 at 11:00. 2-3 people signed up. If know anyone else, there's room for more.
- Rick Riggs lost Truman, their last Golden, so now dogless. Karen sent a card.
- Denise Moore's dog had ACL surgery.
- Carlie Gurske still in rehab from back surgery in January.
- Kathy Schlotterback was keeping list of who & where we visit.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:25 pm

Secretary,

Judy Knoll _____ edited ksimecka 5-9-21