

Prairieland Visiting Animals Association

November 2, 2021

The PVAA meeting was called to order by Karen Simecka, president, @ 6:32 pm. Members present in person (at Cruise Holidays): Karen Simecka, Judy Knoll, Kathy Schlotterbeck, Diana Zimmerman, Sharon Fricke, Betty Rose, Sylvia Hamilton, Carlie Gurske and Debby Martin; attending via zoom: Tim McHenry, Denise Moore & Volora Hanzlicek. Welcome to new members attending, Debby, Sylvia & Volora.

Minutes: Judy Knoll

- Minutes from 8/17/21 were reviewed & approved.

Treasury Report: Diana Zimmerman

- Ending balance: \$1,692.17. That includes the Reading Program Fund: \$257.42 and \$1,434.75 in the general fund. Expenses since August include supplies for the READ program, purchasing and printing of PVAA stationary, note cards and business cards, and lunch for the volunteers at the Oct 16 evaluation. Deposits include dues from 6 new members. We ended the period with more than we began thanks in large part to a donation of \$100 from Nan Palmer.
- We have officially been granted 501c3 status by the IRS and designated as a charity (previously we were only a non-profit). This designation allows people to donate to PVAA and possibly use it as a tax deduction (they should refer to their tax preparer for information about their specific situation). It also allowed us to register as a charity through PayPal, receive their lower transactions fees, be part of their PayPal Giving Fund network, and use a "Donate" button on our website.
- Approved. Report filed with Diana.

Chairperson's Report: Karen Simecka

- We have gained 16 new members and 5 PVAA members have passed their renewals this year. Quite an accomplishment and thanks to all our members who helped with evaluations and talked about Prairieland to individuals and groups in 2021.
- We welcome 4 new members, Anthony Barnett (Leonidas-pit-renew PP), Debby Martin (Dinah-labradoodle), Crystal Scott (Alita-Shiba Inu) & Madison Utech (Tyson-mix). Congrats to all for passing their Oct 16th evaluation and also to Carlie & Ginny for renewing on that date.
- We need all members to update their bios using the membership form on our website.

Public Education Coordinator: Sharon Fricke

- Sharon talks about therapy dogs every day of her life. She is always open for interviews. She is a walking advertisement.

Social Media: Diana Zimmerman

- We've had a huge increase in followers. Remember to share posts on your personal account and take pictures when you're visiting and send them to Diana.

Newsletter: Judy Knoll reported for Tim McHenry who has no voice

- The September edition was sent out and we're waiting on a couple items for the next one.
- Voted on the name and decided on "Prairie Tails", submitted by Lisa Horn.

- Discussion about who we should send it to beyond members.

Election of 2022 Officers:

- Nominations are Karen Simecka – Chair, Tim McHenry – Vice Chair, Judy Knoll – Secretary and Diana Zimmerman – Treasurer.
- Motion made and passed to elect them.

Old Business: Karen

- Motion passed to make a payment of \$200 to Prince of Peace church for use of their facility.
- Monograms still takes orders for logos on shirts and outerwear even though the business moved to KC. Located at 1901 SW Fairlawn, open from 10-5. Karen will place a group order in March 2022.
- Remember to send your current ‘visit schedule’ to Judy Knoll so she can keep it updated on our website (on the members only page).
- Remember to like us on FaceBook and Instagram.

New Business: Karen

- 501c3 – Discussed in treasurer report
- We have new PVAA stationary, note cards and business cards. Printed by Capper’s.
- We will proceed with the holiday party: December 4 at 5:30 at Sharon Fricke’s home.
- Judy reported on the Pet Partner’s World’s Largest Pet Walk. Our PVAA team was a top 10 fundraiser and received recognition in the Pet Partners newsletter for raising over \$1,000.
- Reading with Prairieland Dogs – Schedule for 2022: Feb 6-Mar13, June 5-July10, Sept 11-Oct 16. They are 6-week sessions with 2-3 dogs and a monitor. Discussion about advertising upcoming sessions with schools, using FB and contacting school officials. Karen will send out an email one month before each session and ask for volunteers to sign up.
- Mentors – members shared who they shadowed and their willingness to have someone go along with them.
- The PVAA brochure needs to be updated. It helps to raise awareness and get people to join.
- Dates for 2022 meetings and events: March 8, May 10, August 16 and November 1. The picnic will be June 11 and the holiday party will be on December 3.
- Betty Rose started a discussion about posters we’ve had before “Would your dog like to be a therapy dog?” and doing it again. It would have pictures and include PVAA contact information. Distribute to vet offices, groomers, pet stores... Sharon offered to distribute them.
- If anyone wants to visit the Juvenile Detention Center with their therapy animal, let Kathy Schlotterbeck know.

Meeting adjourned @ 7:30 pm

Secretary,

Judy Knoll