

# **Prairieland Visiting Animals Association**

**August 17, 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, Susan Willard, Carolyn Buono, Tim McHenry, Lindsay Kufahl, Sharon Fricke, Julie Hoffman & Jessica Manning; attending via zoom: Diana Zimmerman & Orissa Metzger.

## **Minutes:** Judy Knoll

- Minutes from 5/10/21 were reviewed & approved.

## **Treasury Report:** Diana Zimmerman

- Ending balance: \$1,617.70. That includes the Reading Program Fund: \$302.42 and \$1,315.28 in the general fund. The smaller balance since May can largely be attributed to the fees to the IRS and Secretary of State for paperwork filed for 501c3 tax exempt status at the end of May.
- Although we lost 10 members this year due to inactivity and not paying dues, our membership is basically staying steady with the addition of 7 new members this summer during our evaluations. All members are paid up on dues. Approved. Report filed with Diana.

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

- Congrats and thanks to many volunteers for completing 2 evaluations on May 22 & July 10. We would like to welcome 8 new teams, Bobbi Shinn (Tate-golden), Lindsay Kufahl (Lucian-poodle), Brian Coover (Sasha-mastiff), Jenny Lang (Margo-g.shep), Michele Mainey (Eli-poodle), Jolleen Thorpe (Tillie-cocker), Diane Mailen (Lenny-grt.dane) and Pamela Grant (Oskar-leonberger). PVAA members that renewed were: T.Zule-Molly, C.Buono-Joy & Jasmine and B.Patton-Jesse. Welcome to new member Jessica Manning with Ellie (golden)-will need eval this fall.
- We need more evaluators for our PP evaluations in the future. Please think about becoming one - information on requirements are on the PP website.

## **Public Education Coordinator:** Sharon Fricke

- Sharon talks about therapy dogs every day of her life. She is always open for interviews. She takes calls about what it takes to become a team. We have someone who can evaluate birds.

## **Social Media:** Diana Zimmerman

- We've slowed down on having things to post. Remember we can only post faces if we have a signed release. Still need people to send pictures, be sure to include name, pet's name and gender, where it was taken. Send to Diana's email. Consider sharing to your own FB account, also "like" the ones posted.

## **Old Business:** Karen

- Requests: HPHS – Tim contacted them but hasn't received a response; family with 7 year old boy – he met with them a couple times and Judy joined them one time. Boy walked both dogs during the session. Kathy mentioned hearing the superintendent of 501 schools said only professional therapists

could do it – need to follow through on this. Tiffany Zule could help the man in Meriden; Susan Willard might be able to as well.

- Tim is working on the content of the newsletter and Judy will help with editing. If you have anything for it, send to Tim or Judy. Sharon & Sami are the first featured team. Who do we hope to reach with the newsletter (who is our audience)? Tim would like PVAA to be the community resource on therapy animals. Should it be monthly or quarterly? Start with sending to our membership, post on website, FB and eventually expand our mail list to others (e.g. Sarah the volunteer coordinator at Stormont).

### **New Business:** Karen

- PVAA logo wear – t-shirts and polo shirts. Decided on silver polo shirts (t-shirts are blue) and design #7. The simpler design is better.
- Do we need a mentor list? Lindsay would go with someone. Tim is happy to have anyone shadow him. Let Karen know. Sharon also tells anyone who asks. Don't think we need a list.
- Visit schedule – Judy will get the list updated and post it on our website. Let her know when and where you visit and with what animal.
- Discussion about using our website Forum or FB groups or emails for communication between members.
- Reading with Prairieland Dogs – Sundays at the library from 2-3 pm, starting September 12 and going through October 3. Karen has sent an email and is working out the schedule.
- The summer picnic is September 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at Prince of Peace church in the basement (use west entrance on ground floor). Sharon & Denise are organizers. Need RSVP so know how much chicken & drinks. Everyone bring a side dish. Dogs are included!
- Anyone who wants to walk with the PVAA team in the World's Largest Pet Walk sponsored by Pet Partners on September 25<sup>th</sup> should sign up on the PP website: <https://p2p.onecause.com/wlpw/home>. Contact Judy or Tim with questions. We'll let everyone know the meeting time and place.
- The annual business meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov 2 at 6:30, hopefully we can hold it at the library. The nominating committee for officers is Kathy Schlotterbeck, Tim McHenry & Carolyn Buono. Officers for 2022 will be voted on at this meeting.
- The Christmas party will be held at Sharon Fricke's house on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30. Entrée and cheap champagne (Sharon's words!) will be provided and everyone brings a side dish.

### **Meeting adjourned @ 7:30 pm**

**Secretary,**

**Judy Knoll, edited by Karen Simecka**