

# Prairieland Visiting Animals Association

**November 1, 2022**

The PVAA meeting was called to order by Karen Simecka, president, @ 6:36 pm. Members present in person: Karen Simecka, Tim McHenry, Judy Knoll, Sharon Fricke, Debby Martin, Maisy Struve, Rhonda Knoernschild, Jill Stewart, Kay Neuer, Diana Zimmerman, Carlie Gurske, Kathy Stueve, Lana Johnson, Rachel Pantos; attending via zoom were Nan Palmer and Kelsey Spencer. Introductions were made and we welcomed the new members.

## **Minutes:** Judy Knoll

- Minutes from 8/16/22 were reviewed & approved. On the agenda, the date differences of the Christmas party at Sharon Fricke's house was this year (Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>) and the one in 2023 (Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>).

## **Treasury Report:** Diana Zimmerman

- Balance as of 11/1/22: \$1,478.98. That is made up of the General Fund: \$1,056.10, the Reading Program Fund: \$245.70 and the Donation Fund: \$177.18. There was a surplus from the T-Touch workshop of \$121.65 that was returned to the General Fund. We got \$8.13 from Amazon smile and a check from Dillon's (not included as just received today) for \$30.75. Encouraged members to sign-up for these programs so PVAA gets a % on money they spend. Report was approved.

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

- Welcome to new members: Kelsey Spencer-Apollo(Berne-doodle), Kathy Stueve-Otis (Golden), Michelle Zeller-Julian (Aussie), Teri Zaiss-Gus (Lab), Lana Johnson-Opal Mae (Beagle) and David Long-Aggieville (Golden). We have added 22 new members this last year, a record for us!
- A big thank you to Nan Palmer and all others that donated to us this year!
- We have accomplished a lot this year – 501c3 status, new bylaws to review, held a T-Touch workshop and have almost 65+ members that are excited to be in our fun family group. That's just more teams to put smiles on people's faces. A huge thank you goes to every volunteer at evaluations, events, camps, festivals and community events! We can't do this without you. I'm so proud to be a part of Prairieland!

## **Agenda Order Change**

Because of all the business we have to transact tonight, the chair requested a motion to change the prescribed order of agenda items. Motion to discuss New Business first was made and passed.

## **New Business:**

- **BYLAWS** – The bylaw committee (Karen Simecka, Rachel Pantos, Jill Stewart & Diana Zimmerman) took on a major undertaking to rewrite the bylaws. A copy of their proposed document was emailed to all members prior to the meeting and also provided at the meeting. Discussion followed involving the necessity of including the section on Expulsion of a member. Terminology was changed to Dismissal along with other wording changes to clarify the reasons for dismissal (standards of their national organization) and adding "majority" to the vote of the board. Added a line about Officers not being held responsible for actions of the members. Karen pointed out a change from the previous bylaws of having officers serve staggered two-year terms. It was suggested we have a procedure handbook to cover some things that aren't in the bylaws, including a review of the bylaws on a regular basis. A motion was made and seconded to adopt the bylaws with suggested changes. Motion passed with a show of hands in favor.

- ELECTION OF OFFICERS – thanks to our nominating committee of Diana Zimmerman, Bobbie Shinn, & Karen Simecka. Here is the ballot:

PVAA Ballot - Annual Meeting on Nov 1, 2022

Chairperson (vote for one):

Tim McHenry  
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Vice-Chairperson (vote for one):

Judy Knoll  
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Secretary (vote for one):

Maisy Struve  
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Treasurer (vote for one):

Julie Hoffman  
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Member-at-Large (vote for one or two):

Laura Douglas  
 Sharon Fricke  
 Kay Neuer  
 Jill Stewart  
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- Officers for next year are: Tim McHenry – chair, Judy Knoll – vice chair, Maisy Struve – secretary, Julie Hoffman – treasurer and Sharon Fricke & Jill Stewart – members-at-large. Thanks to everyone for your interest in PVAA.
  - Diana Zimmerman presented the PVAA Social Media Policy and Social Media Guidelines for PVAA Members for adoption by the membership. Motion made, seconded and passed to adopt both of these documents. (copies attached to minutes). These will be posted on the website and be included in the handbook that is being created. Many thanks to Diana for putting these together and for all her work with PVAA social media over the last few years. We're lucky to have you continue as our PVAA Social Media Manager!

**Old Business:**

**Public Education Coordinator (PEC) and Newsletter: Tim McHenry**

- Made a presentation to Beta Sigma Phi and they donated \$50.
- We had a booth October 1 at the Fall Fun Fest.
- On October 25-26 we had teams at the KBI Forensic Center and Admin Center. Very well received.
- He visited at Midland Day Center and they're interested in having visiting teams.
- He has another visit with the Rescue Mission on Thursday.
- Once he's talked to the Rescue Mission, he'll send an email to members.
- PVAA Prairie Tails (newsletter) will be out soon.
- PetSmart has raised the fee on their therapy dog preparation class by \$20, so now \$139.00.

**T-Touch Workshop: Karen Simecka**

Pat Hennessey from Peculiar, Missouri presented the workshop at Prince of Peace on September 17. We had 23 people attend. Feedback: the introductions took too much time, the "balance" exercise wasn't helpful, would have liked more time on T-Touch, how and when to use, how developed. We took in \$1,021.65 and paid Pat \$900. The balance of \$121.65 was put in the general fund. Pat donated a book and DVD to PVAA.

### **Prince of Peace Donation for 2022: Karen Simecka**

We have not paid anything to them this year for use of their facilities. Motion was made, seconded and passed to send them \$400 – the usual \$300 plus \$100 more from the workshop.

### **BATT Posters: Karen Simecka**

Karen reported that Marti & Kay have distributed 40 of the posters around town. We started with 50, so have 40 left. One place they took them was to car dealerships.

### **Bio's: Karen Simecka**

Lindsay is still working on these. Karen will help but could use others. Maisy volunteered.

### **Reading Program: Debby Martin**

Debby reported that we had 3 dogs every week during our last sessions. There were 33 “reads” the last day. She would like to have five people at each one in the future – a monitor, 3 dogs and a rover. The rover could go around the library (with their dog if they want) and tell patrons about the program as it’s going on. She’d also like to give each child that participates a free book when they leave. Anyone that has books to donate could bring them to the Christmas party at Sharon’s. And Judy will put a box out at Cruise Holidays in Brookwood Shopping Center so people can drop them off there. Diana will post about it on social media. She’s doing “Thankful for” posts this month, not promising daily!

### **Miscellaneous:**

- Sharon has A LOT of books that she’s willing to share with others. Judy will help her list them and we’ll put the list on the website and members can check them out. She may include a rating system.
- We need Pet Partner evaluators
- Visiting opportunities at the Juvenile Detention Center & DA’s office – let Judy know if you’re interested.

### **Upcoming Dates for 2022:**

- November 5 – Tails on the Trail: HHHS event at Shawnee North Community Center, starts at 10 am.
- December 3 – Christmas party at Sharon’s home, 5:30 pm. She provides the entrée and cheap champagne, everyone bring a dish, their dues for 2023 and a book to donate. She’ll email the details as it gets nearer.

### **2023 Dates:**

- Meetings (Rm 206 at TSCPL) – March 7, May 9, August 15 and November 7
- Picnic at Prince of Peace – June 10
- Christmas Party at Sharon’s – December 2
- Reading with Prairieland Dogs starts in February

### **Other New Business:**

Karen would like to have a PowerPoint on therapy animals

Sharon presented Karen with a Certificate of Appreciation and a small gift for her work as chairperson the last 4 years and continued commitment to PVAA

**Meeting adjourned @ 8:20 pm**