

Board Meeting – November 16, 2021

Attending by Internet or Phone: Cary Booth, Victor Shawe, Alice Wakefield, Dinah Davidson, Jackie Lewis, David Newton, Carolyn Nordstrom; community member Howard Topoff

I. Call to Order

Cary called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

II. Agenda

Hearing no requests for revisions to the Agenda, Cary moved to accept it without modification.

Carolyn seconded that motion, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

III. Approval of Minutes

Cary moved that the minutes from the September 21 meeting be approved without modification.

Victor seconded his motion, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

IV. Reports

A. Fire Chief (David Newton)

1. Operations

An investigation on the morning of Nov 11th revealed smoke apparently coming from a distant source north of us.

2. Training

a) Attendance on October 16 was okay, but that at valuable training on October 3 was poor.

b) Joint FF/EMT training is scheduled for this Saturday.

3. Vehicles

a) Oil changes have been completed on Brush 8, Brush 236, and Engine 2.

b) Brush 5 has a radiator leak and is not in service.

c) David has removed decals from Red Brush 6 prior to vehicle sale.

4. Grants

David may apply for a 95/5 AFG grant (deadline Dec. 17) for replacement of our (circa 2003) vehicle radios. A rough estimate for a request of \$30,000 would require a \$1500 match from us. AFG is the program we used for our 2015 pager grant.

B. EMS (Jackie Lewis)

1. Calls

PR has responded to three AZ EMT calls, and Barbara and Carolyn have also responded to NM calls.

2. Jackie thanks all who have picked up extra tasks while she has had to be away (David with joint training, EMTs with monthly paperwork, ordering information and vehicle checks)!

3. Douglas Fire Department received a grant for self-training kits. Winston picked up 15 Continuous Chest Compression kits that can be used to train community members and students at local schools. The "new" CPR technique involves continuous chest compressions only, with no mouth-to-mouth contact required.

4. Jackie thanked David for installing the back-up camera on Rescue 4.

C. Treasurer (Alice Wakefield)

1. Assets

Washington Federal: the total value of our Washington Federal account (Rainy Day Fund) is \$34,120.05, including \$476.41 YTD interest.

2. Edward Jones (all accounts)

The total value of our EJ accounts is \$159,210.10, including \$264.59 in YTD interest. Components of this total are: Money Market (\$85,036.44) and three CDs (including Muma CD) of 2- or 3-year maturity dates (\$74,173.66).

3. Portal Rescue assets total \$193,615.89, including \$255 in petty cash, \$30.74 in stamps (stamp status remaining for fundraising is unknown), and all investments. Three outstanding checks total \$943.00.

4. Revenues and expenses

YTD revenues total \$64,422.63, and YTD expenses have come in at \$31,994.76.

D. Vice-President (Victor Shawe) – nothing to report

E. Member at Large (Carolyn Nordstrom)

Carolyn urged board members to explore their personal contacts, and (per Cary) David's list of maintenance items sent to firefighters, to urge wider participation in PR tasks. As earlier, she pointed out that EMTs are currently required to perform tasks (e.g., vehicle maintenance) that could be done by others. Please solicit more volunteers to assist this community organization!

F. President (Cary Booth)

The anticipated vehicle donation (to become Rescue 3) is awaiting approval from New Mexico's Department of Finance and Administration (DFA).

V. Continuing Business

A. Classroom policy

1. Community member Howard Topoff proposed that we again permit classroom rental and use by the public, but with a vaccination requirement for all participants. He pointed out that Douglas schools are back in session and that the risk of Covid 19 infection will never decline to zero.

2. A spirited discussion followed. Points in favor of continuing the current policy of classroom closure were: (1) that the classroom is small (not accommodating crowds at SewWhat? forums), (2) that it lacks air scrubbers, and (3) that many residents are elderly and/or members of 'special populations' particularly susceptible to Covid infection and its most severe effects. Participants in events could unwittingly transmit infection to the wider community. Also (4), windows and doors could not remain open in wintry air. Finally, (5), we live in a high risk, low vaccination area. Two board members expressed opposition to any vaccination requirement.

3. Victor moved that the current classroom policy* be continued, Dinah seconded his motion, and the vote was 6:1 to keep the classroom closed to public events other than blood drives.

B. PR's agreement with Chiricahua Community Health Center, Inc (CCHCI)

1. CCHCI has not yet signed the MOA, though they did send proof-of-insurance. Cary will follow up on this to get a signed copy of the MOA and determine when they will begin to see patients in Portal.

2. Now that the Walker Clinic is back to its original Tuesday, Thursday, Friday schedule, we will suggest Mondays for the CCHCI clinic.

C. Vehicle donation (see above)

D. Change of Accountant

Alice has had no response to her emailed inquiry but will follow up.

E. Donation drive

Jackie thanks Morgan Jackson and Alice Wakefield for help with the donation drive.

F. Website update

Alice has been working on this, but can't look at it now because the server is down. David notified our webmaster a few hours ago.

VI. New business

Schedule for next meeting: A virtual meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 12 at 6 pm, and board members will meet on December 15 at 6 pm to prepare a preliminary 2022 budget for consideration at the January meeting.

VII. For the Good of the Order

A. Blood drives

1. Please mark Thursday, January 13th on your calendars for the first blood drive of 2022. Scheduling is open at www.redcross.org .

2. The November 11th blood drive was tremendously successful!

Our goal was to collect 20 whole units and two Power Reds for a total of 22 pints. (For Power Reds, a special procedure permits safe donation of two units of red blood cells while returning plasma and platelets to donors.) From 32 donors, we collected 27 whole units and three Power Reds, or 11 pints over our goal! Our donors have potentially helped to save 64 lives during a pandemic and a period of severe blood shortage. The November drive was also record-breaking for both Portal donor numbers and collections, beating the old record (27 units) from earlier this year.

3. Over our five blood drives, we also broke our annual record for blood donations! During this pandemic, and a period of severe blood shortage, Portal donated a total of 127 pints and potentially helped to save 381 lives.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no objection, Cary adjourned the meeting at 07:14.

* Current classroom policy: The classroom will be available only for our well-monitored blood drives (windows and bay open) and usage by PR personnel for training, operations, etc.