

**Livingston County CARES Inc.**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**March 11, 2009**

**Approved Minutes**

The Board of Directors met at the GOLD Leadership Center in the MacVittie College Union on Wednesday, March 11, 2009. The following board members were present: Tom Matthews, Kay Fly, Amanda Flannery, Elyse Arneson, Wes Kennison, Dick Hatheway, Jerry Alonzo, Dan Dimpfl, and Lori McEvoy. Guest, Zach Monahan.

Matthews called the meeting to order at 3:00pm.

**Approval of the minutes:** Kennison moved and Hatheway seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the February. 4, 2009 board meeting. The minutes were approved.

**February Trip Report:** Hatheway reported that 11 people went on the February trip. They were broken up into two groups. The first group worked on a house that was in the final stages of reconstruction. The second group worked at a house where previous work needed to be redone. Termites were present and the windows had fallen out. The house needed to be deconstructed, the insulation torn out and then reconstructed again.

**May Trip update:** Matthews reported that 14 people have signed up for the May trip which would fill two cars. Drivers for these cars are needed to go from New Orleans to Biloxi using seven passenger cars. There are 25 plane reservations for the May trip. McEvoy said that she sent out information on the trip to the local churches. Matthews reported that he had talked with several possible drivers but none had yet agreed to participate. Dimpfl asked if any returning students would be going and Matthews responded that there are a few including one that will likely be the trip leader.

**Financial Report:** Lehman's brother passed away so there was no financial report. Matthews stated that the bus company did cash our check for \$16,000.

**March Trip Report:** Arneson reported that they will be leaving Geneseo at 8:30 am Saturday, March 14 and expect to be in Biloxi early on Sunday morning. Arneson reported that 55 people will be going on this trip. Flannery said that they had a team leader meeting and there will be six to eight people per team. Alonzo asked about transportation in Mississippi and Arneson replied that the bus would be at their disposal. Matthews said he has been trying to get the names of previous homeowners

so our students could invite them to a picnic but it was very difficult getting the names and addresses.

**April 6<sup>th</sup> Dinner:** Arneson reported that all the invitations have been printed and will be mailed to past donors and past trip participants including the people going on the March trip. The dinner will start at 6pm and will be held at the interfaith Center. Matthews said that this would be advertised as a thank you and recognition dinner.

**Fundraising effort:** Flannery said that she and Evarts will be doing another Jail Break fundraiser since the one last year was so successful. The dates will be April 15, 16, and 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be one jar to get the person out of jail and one jar to keep them in jail. Flannery said that she would be asking the students that go on the March trip to each take an hour at the fundraiser. Flannery said sign-ups would begin next week.

**Charity Event:** Flannery announced that Relay for Life would be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Ice Arena here on Camus. She said that she would like to invite the board members to come. She said that they would only have to stay two to three hours. Flannery said that there would be a survivor's lap and very good speakers. She is hoping to have a good turn out from faculty and staff.

**Scholarship Report:** Arneson stated that 16 people requested financial assistance and that \$2,075 has been given out for the January, March and May trips. She reported that there are 3 more requests pending for the May trip.

**Presentation:** Zach Monahan, a VISTA from Catholic Charities was introduced to the Board. Monahan reported on his home safety program for low-income seniors. He described a client in Nunda that needs his steps fixed and suggested that it would only take a few students an afternoon to complete the project. He asked if this was something Livingston CARES would be interested in sponsoring. Kennison said that it reminded him of the Interfaith Appalachian project, which eventually helped local residents. Kennison said that Monahan's project would be a great opportunity for students that could not commit to a week of Volunteering such as our Mississippi trips. Matthews said that there seem to be more students in Habitat for Humanity than can be utilized and asked if some of those students could be used for the Catholic Charities project. Dimpfl reported that five to twelve students come each Saturday to work on habitat projects. Kennison said that habitat was different than the project talked about by Monahan. Kennison went on to say that habitat was more labor intensive and wasn't sure habitat would be the right fit. Matthews reported that some of our students were doing civic engagement projects and one is the formation of a Council of Service Organizations at the College which could collaborate with Livingston CARES. Dimpfl suggested that this project could be community members working with students similar to the May trip. Kennison suggested that if someone is looking for poverty projects there is a huge need right here in our local communities. Kennison said that most real poverty is invisible to the community and that he favors doing local projects. He recommended that we move forward as a group and have Monahan come back with a

proposal. McEvoy asked Monahan if he had several projects and Monahan responded that he did. Alonzo asked Monahan if he had gone to churches and Monahan responded that he had visited many churches as well as civic groups. Alonzo said that whatever the project is someone needs to take charge so it can be completed in one day. Kennison suggested that Monahan's proposal include dates and sample projects. Matthews suggested that fall would be an ideal time to do this because Livingston CARES does not plan major trips in the fall. McEvoy said that a coordinator would be needed. Matthews asked Monahan if Catholic Charities would have a VISTA next year and Monahan reported that they are optimistic and that such a person could be involved in coordinating projects. Monahan agreed to come back with a proposal at the next CARES Board meeting.

**Update on El Sauce Project:** Matthews reported that Provost Gordon called to inform him that we need to put this potential project on hold because the State Department reported that the Nicaraguan Government was trying to siphon money from NGO's.

**Discussion** Kennison asked how the campus is going to deal with volunteer group projects and asked if we could play a role in coordination. Matthews stated that Livingston CARES needs to be involved in some projects in Livingston County. Alonzo suggested we need to balance the needs for local projects and our commitment to Mississippi. Kennison asked if there are any other groups working in Biloxi similar to Livingston CARES. Dimpfl suggested that we are a unique group because we have been going four times a year for the past four years and even many churches do not continue such a long-term commitment. Dimpfl suggested that we should talk about what we do and present it to others so they might consider similar long-term commitments.

**By-laws:** Hathaway suggested there should be descriptions of the permanent committees and in Article IX part b the words do to should be changed to due to. He also suggested that Article X be changed to require an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the Board members and that the two meetings be eliminated. With these changes in mind Matthews asked if we could move to accept these By-laws. Alonzo moved and Dimpfl seconded and the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Minutes submitted by Kay Fly, Secretary

**Next meeting;** April 7, 2009 at 4:30 at the Interfaith Center