

**Livingston County CARES, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Feb. 4, 2009**

**Approved Minutes**

The Board of Directors met in the MacVittie College union Boardroom on Wed., Feb. 4, 2009. The following board members were present: Lyle Lehman, Tom Matthews, Elise Arneson, Jerry Alonzo, Marissa Evarts, Amanda Flannery, Wes Kennison, Dick Hatheway, Cynthia Oswald, Kathy Jones, Kay Fly and Lori McEvoy. Guest, Dave Gordon.

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

**Approval of the minutes:** Alonzo moved and Lehman seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2008 board meeting. The minutes were approved.

**President's Report:** Matthews reported that 25 people, including 14 students participated in the January trip to Mississippi. The volunteers worked on two houses and one was nearly finished at the end of the week. The accommodations were good and the food was decent. Camp Victor is a church camp and lights were out at 10pm and back on at 6am. Matthews also reported that the work site coordinator did a good job and there was no waiting for materials or being told what to do. Mathews thanked Lehman for supplying the maple syrup that was given to the homeowners. Nick Mazza, Livingston County Administrator joined the group for two days and presented the Livingston County flag to the Harrison County officials in a brief ceremony at the Woolmarket Youth Recreation Complex. The county flag and a state flag donated by Senator Dale Volker were raised on the flag pole previously donated by Livingston CARES. Cynthia Oswald and her husband also joined the January work group and Oswald presented a friendship letter symbolizing the continuing relationship between Livingston and Harrison Counties. Lunch was provided at the Woolmarket Senior Citizens Center. Oswald presented gifts to the Harrison County administrators from the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lyle Lehman provided a verbal report on January 2009 that is added to these minutes as an addendum.

**VISTA Report; Arneson** said the wait list was used for the March trip. She stated that there would be a trip orientation on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. She said that 52 students and 3 staff members would be going on the March trip. She reported that 2 students on the January trip received financial assistance and that 9 students on the March trip will also be receiving financial assistance. The scholarship committee approved a total of \$1,675.00 to assist students and one staff member on the January and March 2009 trips. Arneson reported that 25 spots are being held for the May trip and that a few students have signed up. We are in the process of looking for a leader for the May Trip.

**Charities Registration:** Matthews stated that a confirming letter acknowledging our registration has been received from the New York State Charities Bureau.

**Volker Grant:** Kennison asked if we could count on Volker making another contribution and Matthews indicated that we would request funds but the chances of a large grant this year are slim. Kennison visited with Volker on a lobby day in Albany and thanked him for his support of Livingston CARES.

**Network for Good:** Lehman moved that we join Network for Good. Kennison seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**Annual Dinner:** Matthews indicated that the April 6<sup>th</sup> Livingston CARES dinner would be at the Inner Faith Center here on Franklin Street. He suggested that the focus be changed from a fundraising dinner to a thank you dinner for all those people that went on the trips to Mississippi. The chair asked for volunteers to help with the dinner.

**Awards:** Oswald suggested that we recognize the reporters from Livingston County News for their coverage of our January Mississippi trip. Kennison offered to write a thank you resolution. Kennison moved that we present a certificate for journalistic excellence to the Livingston County News at the April dinner. Alonzo seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Scholarships:** Matthews stated that Livingston County CARES received a \$300 donation from the Geneseo Kiwanis. He suggested we establish one or two Kiwanis scholarships to assist students with work trip expenses.

**By-laws Committee report:** Matthews stated that Arneson and Christiansen worked on the by-laws draft and asked members to review it and offer any suggestions for revisions prior to the March meeting. The proposed by-laws will be voted on at the March meeting. Alonzo suggested that the draft should be sent to our attorney, Kevin VanAllen for review.

**El Sauce Project Presentation:** Dave Gordon, Interim Provost was introduced to the Board. Gordon provided a history of the El Sauce, Nicaragua project which has been operating for two years. El Sauce, Nicaragua is a small town in the second poorest country in the world. A SUNY Geneseo graduate has been living in El Sauce for 2 years and serves as the host for students who participate in the project. When students go to El Sauce they stay in the houses in the community. Gordon stated that there are several on-going projects in El Sauce including a recreation center for children in the summer run by Geneseo students and English classes for adults and older children. They are currently working with a woman to provide textbooks for teaching English. Our graduate student, Kellan, has to leave the country every three months because he does not belong to any official sponsoring organization. Gordon asked that Livingston CARES consider serving as the official Non Governmental Organization (NGO) for the El Sauce Project. Gordon indicated that the College will take responsibility for all the costs associated with establishing Livingston CARES as the official NGO. There will need to be liability

coverage and Gordon will work with an experienced lawyer in the NGO area to sort out all the complexities of establishing this project.

**El Sauce Project Discussion:** McEvoy asked what would be involved. Gordon asked if we could amend our by-laws to include El Sauce. Matthews responded that our by-laws already include causes that are global. Kennison said that there are many global projects going on at the same time on campus. He said that there is a pattern of establishing new College long-term community partnerships with academic research and service learning. Kennison suggested that CARES could be a resource for these new campus partnerships. Matthews stated that these types of initiatives do fit within the Livingston CARES mission. Kennison asked if we would get the same question for Haiti and Ghana. Gordon stated those projects already have an official institutional relationship but El Sauce does not have an official sponsor that is recognized in Nicaragua. He further stated that no money from Livingston CARES would be required but what is needed is a non-profit organization to make it legal

Gordon suggested that the El Sauce project would be a great service learning opportunity for students. Kennison suggested that international studies and study abroad should have a role in these projects. Alonzo said that we need someone to sit down with us and advise us on how to administer these types of relationships. Kennison suggested that administrative responsibilities need to be defined and added that he felt our role would be a minimum one if we partner with the study abroad office. Kennison also suggested that we need to decide who does what because this issue will come up again. Matthews asked if we should pursue this. Lehman said that this project could broaden opportunities for community members and students. Oswald suggested that we look at our policy because the community as well as the college will likely approach us with other projects. Kennison noted that currently our trips are not for academic credit so we will need to decide what role we would play. Oswald suggested we will need a budget line for lawyers because we will need legal advice. Kennison suggested if we want to be the place where the buck stops we will need to decide what responsibilities we are willing to assume. Matthews suggested that we discuss this at our next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Minutes submitted by Kay Fly, Secretary

**Next meeting:** March 11, 2009 at 3:00pm

Addendum to February 4, 2009 minutes:  
**January 2009 Financial Statement**

Beginning balance 12-31-08	\$34,376.25
4 Deposits	+3,750.00
6 Withdrawals	-5,083.59
Interest paid	+7.82
Ending balance 1-31-09	\$33,050.48
Deposits	
Donation Kiwanis/Indiv	400.00
Trip Payments	3,350.00
Withdrawals	
Jan. trip payment	3,125.00
Reimb. gas/vehicle	1,458.59
Deposit refund	500.00