

Livingston County CARES. Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2012
Approved Minutes

The Board of Directors met at the Board Room in the MacVittie Union on Wednesday, January 18, 2012. The following board members were present: Jerry Alonzo, Matt Andrews, Karen Bailey, Erin Bills, Matthew Bower, Brenda Donohue, Kevin Felter, Kay Fly, Lizzy Johnson, Kathleen Jones, Ken Kallio, Wes Kennison, Lyle Lehman, Tom Matthews, Phil Natoli and Dave Parfitt. Dan Dimpfl and Joan Ellison were excused.

Matthews called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

Approval of the minutes: Jones moved and Lehman seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2011 meeting. The minutes were approved.

Volunteer Awards Dinner: Fly announced that the Center for Community will be hosting a service award dinner on March 29, 2012. Students, student organizations and community agencies will be invited to submit nominations for the awards to be presented at the dinner.

Financial Report: Treasurer Lehman reported that there is no current report due to the vacation break at the College. Our student accountant will prepare reports for the next meeting in March. Matthews announced that there have been several end-of-year donations including one for \$750 and a second for \$250.

January work trip: Natoli, Matthews and Felter participated in the January work trip. Twenty-eight people went on the trip including five staff/community volunteers. The volunteers stayed at Camp SUMA. Matthews said that HOPE was better organized and that the supervision was much better under need leadership. Natoli concurred that HOPE provided great supervisors this year. He also reported on his continuing concern about volunteers working on houses with homeowners who appear not be put any sweat equity into the rebuilding of their homes. Natoli's team and Kruppner's team worked on laminating floors in two different houses, Richardson's team worked on framing a house and Matthews' team mudded and sanded a house in the final stages of reconstruction. Mathews said that two of the sites had families living in

the houses and their presence was awkward for the volunteers, especially when the homeowners did not help with moving furniture and personal belongings. Felter reported that the landscape in Mississippi did not look devastated anymore and the student volunteers sometimes found it hard to understand why volunteers are still needed. Matthews said that we need to do a better job preparing our volunteers with the big picture story of why help is still needed several years after the hurricane. Andrews suggested that students should read or watch a video on what happened during the storm before they go on a work trip. Bills said that it helps hearing stories from house occupants. Donohue said that we need a human aspect – what the hurricane did to the families and community. Kennison said that study abroad service trips have moved away from difficult construction projects to designing projects specific to the talents of the service students. Kallio asked if the primary focus of work at HOPE has changed. He observed last May that HOPE was viewed as a contractor and that homeowners expected the work to be completed and that they frequently inspected the work. Kennison added that if HOPE is having difficulty with the homeowners, they need to resolve the issues and not put volunteers in the middle. Lehman added that during the first three years, families were not able to live in their homes when volunteers were working on a house. Matthews agreed but we are seeing more work on houses with homeowners present. Matthews believes that the work situation is much better but we need to continue to push HOPE to make sure the work experience for our students is productive and a good use of their time as volunteers.

Upcoming trips: Mathews said that the March trip is filled and an orientation with more emphasis on the history of the hurricane and the work projects will be included in the training of volunteers. Kallio indicated that the May trip is almost completely open and that we need to start promoting that trip. Parfitt reported that the Give Kids the World March trip has 10 out of 12 slots filled.

Geneseo Goes to Town: Matthews stated that planning is underway to send student volunteers to all 17 towns in the county for the service day scheduled for Saturday, April 14. Last year volunteers did projects in 16 of the 17 towns.

SEFA: Matthews reported that he and Lehman reviewed the application process for the Livingston United Way and concluded that it made more sense to apply for the SEFA Campaign. Kallio reported that the New York State Employees Federated Appeal website has not yet posted the application forms. He will work with President Matthews and Treasurer Lehman on submitting the SEFA application that will permit state employees to contribute to Livingston CARES in the fall 2012 fundraising appeal. The application form cannot be submitted until the forms are posted on the state website.

Fundraisers: Matthews reported that he is working on setting a date on a Thursday in the spring for the Gumbo Dinner. Glenn McClure has agreed to be the chef for the dinner. The Jailbreak will be scheduled again this year in April and will be organized by student members of the board of directors. By consensus, board members agreed that we should continue both of these fundraising activities. The Gumbo Dinner date will depend on the availability of the kitchen at the Central Presbyterian Church.

Annual Meeting: The Livingston CARES annual Meeting is scheduled for April 16th at 4:30 pm at the Interfaith Center. The Volunteer Thank You Dinner will follow at 5:30 pm. Gary Towsley will be the chef for the dinner.

El Sauce Funds: Matthews reported that the request from Kellan Morgan to have funds collected for the El Sauce school project transferred to him to purchase construction materials for the school project was approved by an email vote of the board members in December. The funds were wired from Kay Bank to Morgan's bank in Nicaragua on December xxx. The balance of the funds for the school project will be available for a second transfer after the receipts and paperwork for the first transfer are received from Morgan. Lehman moved and Jones seconded a motion to authorize a transfer of the balance of the El Sauce school project fund when the documentation and receipts from the first transfer of funds are received. The motion passed.

Kennison provided a report and documentation of the monies paid by Study Abroad for medical supplies in El Sauce. Lehman moved and Alonzo seconded a motion to authorize reimbursement to Study Abroad for \$1,000.00 from the parental gift designated for El Sauce. The motion passed.

Report on Haiti: Kennison reported on his January visit to Haiti. He reported that life is still very difficult in the Borgne area. Kennison also reported that he visited with the families that received our contributions in 2010 and they are doing well thanks to the support from Livingston CARES.

Adjournment: Jones moved and Bailey seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

Prepared by Kay Fly, Secretary

Upcoming Meetings:

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 in MacVittie College Union Board Room from 3:30-4:30 pm

Gumbo to Go: March 22, 2012 at Central Presbyterian Church from 10 am to 7:00 pm

2012 Volunteer and Service Awards Dinner at Big Tree on Thursday, March 29, 2012 at 6:00 pm

Livingston CARES Annual Meeting at the Interfaith Center on Monday, April 16, 2012 at 4:30 pm followed by the Jambalaya Volunteer Thank You Dinner at 5:30pm.