Epiphany State Committee Meeting

Minutes of February 25, 2017

Committee Members Present:

Ben Robertson, Donna Trapp, Tom Geddens, Jackie Hyche, Suzy Bolick, Danna Griner, and Mary Frances Thompson (SD)

Committee Members Absent:

Bill Bengston, Betsy Boaze, and George Dewhirst

Ben Robertson called the meeting to order and Mary Frances Thompson opened with prayer.

Donna moved that the minutes of the October 2016 and December 2016 meeting be approved as distributed. These minutes were distributed after each meeting and no changes were suggested. Tom seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Donna covered the expenses for the January weekend ($1355 direct expenses for food, weekend fee, and coordinator supplies - additional food, birthday cakes, and agape supplies were donated; donations totaled $1200). Expenses reported do not include Star Guides, t-shirts, Bibles, crosses, nametags, etc. because those items are bought in bulk and not expensed every weekend. For the January weekend, we did not receive donations enough to cover expenses. We also need to receive donations above and beyond weekend costs to cover items such as National Affiliation fee ($650), rental of the P O Box ($100), cost to have web page, travel to national meetings, etc. There are times also when equipment has to be replaced (i.e.: tires on the trailer) which we need to be prepared for as well. Approximate cost for a weekend is $2500. We have plenty of money in our account at this time, but don’t want to get in the position where we can’t cover those expenses. It was suggested that during the training and the weekend, it is stressed that we need donations to cover the costs. Also, remind everyone that the funds don’t necessarily have to come from the individual team member, but churches, Sunday School classes, etc. may be willing to donate. Meal tickets are also a great way to raise funds.

Suzy Bolick will be leading the April weekend for Camp Aspen juveniles. She is working on getting her team together now. Betsy Boaze has suggested the next weekend for the Greenville Detention Center be held August 11- 13. There is some concern about that month because of busy schedules with school starting back. And, we still have no Lay Director for the Greenville weekend. Tentatively we would like to have another weekend at DJJ in October. Again, there is no Lay Director for the weekend. Suzy will approach Amy Oliver again to see if she would be willing to take the lead for that weekend.

There have been six suggested participants for the adult table that we will have in conjunction with the Aspen weekend in April. Sheri Smith has sent 4 names to Suzy and Sharon Nicodemus has sent 2 names. The decision was made to allow all 6 of these adults participate with 3 team members at the table.

The next Reunion will be on March 25. Suzy has scheduled training for the April weekend on that date since people will already be in town for Reunion. The training will begin at approximately 11:30am (or as soon after Reunion as everyone can get there) at Red Bank United Methodist Church.

Danna is collecting e-mail addresses of those who have participated in the prayer chain during previous weekends. We want to be able to continue to ask these individuals for prayers for all future weekends. Each time there is an Epiphany weekend, an e-mail request can be sent with a reminder that a weekend is coming up and requesting prayers.

Donna presented the By-Laws for the State Committee of Epiphany Ministry of South Carolina. These had been distributed to all members prior to this meeting. Mary Frances pointed out that in Article IV, section 7, “Treasure” should be corrected to read “Treasurer.” Mary Frances also asked for a point of clarification concerning Article III, section 5 – Removal of Committee Members. She asked if the unexcused absences were consecutive or not? After discussion and pointing out that an unexcused absence meant that the committee member didn’t show up for a meeting and didn’t notify anyone that they would not be in attendance, it was determined that this did not mean consecutive meetings, but any two unexcused absences during the three year term. Donna moved that the By-Laws be accepted with the one correction noted. Tom seconded the motion and the By-Laws were approved unanimously.

Jackie Hyche had a “debrief” meeting with Chaplain Portier after the January weekend. Overall, Chaplain Portier felt that it was a good weekend, but feels that Epiphany weekends should no longer be coed. There are too many distractions with having the boys and girls together. She feels like there needs to be more outside time for the juveniles. Jackie explained that there would probably be ample outside time if they didn’t take so long for bathroom breaks. Some of the Chaplains feel like that is a long day for the juveniles and suggested perhaps shortening the day. Jackie informed her that in order to get the entire program in, that probably wouldn’t happen. There was a suggestion that there be some interaction with the Juvenile Specialists (guards) and explaining to them what expectations might be (i.e.: not taking a juvenile to the bathroom in the middle of the program and explaining that there would be bathroom breaks).

Not have coed weekends, lends itself to the problem again of how we provide weekends for the girls. It simply is not cost effective to do a separate weekend for the girls when there are typically fewer than 10 stars. Mary Frances suggested that we think about the possibility of simultaneous weekends for the boys and girls with the girls being conducted at another location on the DJJ campus. Jackie and Mary Frances will work on the logistics of this to see if it is a possibility.

Needing more volunteers was a topic of discussion yet again. There are still additional facilities where we could have weekends, but in order to staff them appropriately, we will need more volunteers.

Tom closed the meeting with a prayer.