Epiphany State Committee Meeting

Minutes of May 28, 2016

Committee Members Present:

Betsy Boaz, Tom Geddens, George Dewhirst, Ben Robertson, and Donna Trapp

Committee Members Absent:

Frances Tompkins and Don Hemby

Tom opened with a prayer.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning Committee members – electing new members as well as correcting the rotation. Previously it had been decided to allow Betsy, Tom, and Frances to remain on the Committee for one additional year due to the difficulty of finding volunteers who would attend meetings. However, currently there are three new members proposed: Suzy Bolick, Dana Griner, and Mary Frances Thompson. George Dewhirst has already been elected a new Committee Member for the 2016 year. Ben moved with a second by George that Suzy and Dana be elected as new Committee members. This was passed unanimously. Mary Frances will continue to serve the Committee as the Spiritual Director. It was also decided that Tom would fill a vacancy left due to Walter not attending meetings for the 2015 year. Betsy and Frances will fill vacancies for the 2016 year. This is allow the rotation to be back on schedule with three members rotating off each year.

A slate of officers for 2016 was also discussed. Tom expressed that he felt he was unable to continue as the President and be effective due to other responsibilities. The following officers were proposed:

Chair: Ben Robertson

Vice-Chair: Don Hemby

Secretary/Treasurer: Donna Trapp

Donna moved that this slate of officers be elected as proposed with a second from Betsy. The election was unanimous. Ben will continue as the National Representative until the end of this calendar year.

Betsy gave an update on the upcoming weekend at the Greenville Detention Center. They currently have 22 juveniles who are interested in attending the weekend. However, they have team for 3 tables and 15 stars at this time. More team members could be used to support this number. Efforts will be made to recruit several more team members prior to the weekend. Betsy indicated that it would be nice to have a cart to carry the food from the kitchen in the facility to the conference room due to the number of doors that have to be navigated through. She will check with the facility first to determine if they have one. If not, Donna moved and George seconded that Betsy could spend up to $200 to purchase carts. This passed unanimously.

Ben and Betsy recently attended a Cursillo Ultreya at Holy Cross Episcopal Church in Simpsonville. This was an opportunity to introduce Epiphany in hopes of recruiting new volunteers to the ministry. They were able to meet several members of the Diocesan Cursillo Committee and there is a strong possibility of partnering with this group. This would definitely send additional volunteers to our ministry,

Donna reported that the current checking account is titled incorrectly and has an incorrect Tax ID number listed. Unfortunately, the only way to correct this is to close the account and open a new account. This will result in an additional expense for checks. Donna will also investigate several banks to determine where we can open an account with the least fees involved. Currently we have plenty of funds in the checking account. However, donations for the last weekend basically covered expenses. While that is now(t) a bad thing, we need to keep in mind that there are additional expenses required to be paid (ie: affiliation fee, weekend fees, expenses for national meetings, etc.). We need continue to remind volunteers about collecting donations for the weekend.

Donna questioned the effectiveness of continuing to do weekends at the main DJJ campus for two reasons: 1) lack of support from the Chaplaincy Staff; and 2) safety of our team members (given that there was a riot during the February weekend). While the riot happened after the team had left the DJJ campus, there is still the possibility that we could be putting team members in harms way. This is especially true when we have identified additional facilities where it appears that the weekend will be much more effective.

Jackie Hyche will be the Lay Director for the weekend of September 23-25 scheduled for the main DJJ campus. We tentatively have a Camp Aspen weekend scheduled for February; however, there is no Lay Director for the weekend. George will continue to work to plan a weekend for the Beaufort Marine Institute.

Ben presented a report on the National meeting held in early May and hosted by South Carolina. Credentialing for volunteers was discussed and it was decided to leave this on a state by state basis. A volunteer should be credentialed a minimum of as often as is required by the facility where the volunteer is serving. The video has been updated and is now on the national website. It will also be added to the South Carolina website. Trademarking of the Epiphany logo, etc., was discussed. Currently someone else could trademark these items and we would no longer be able to use them. This has been referred to a committee to investigate. Any presentations that are made to Epiphany National at their meetings (ie: a recent presentation on fund raising) will now be turned in to manuals and posted on the website. This will allow everyone to use this information as a resource. The new national website is now live. There was agreement that the Resource area was a great addition. It is password protected so that only Epiphany volunteers have access to this information. It was decided to continue all meetings as face to face meetings rather than attempt to hold the mid-year electronically. And the Executive Secretary’s title was changed to National Executive Co-ordinator to better reflect her function.

George closed the meeting with a prayer.

Epiphany State Committee 2016

2014 (rotating off at the end of 2016)

Betsy Boaz

Frances Tompkins

Ben Robertson

2015 (rotating off at the end of 2017)

Tom Geddens

Don Hemby

Donna Trapp

2016 (rotating off at the end of 2018)

George Dewhirst

Suzy Bolick

Dana Griner