

## **Westport Volunteer Emergency Medical Service**

### **General Membership Meeting**

**January 23, 2018**

Yves called the meeting to order at 1932hrs.

Attendance: Yves Cantin, Jay Paretzky, Larry Kleinman, Isabel Blair, Jerry Walker, Yashasvi Jhangiani, Nancy Sengstacken, Sandi MacPherson, Jake Healy, Andrea Harman, Rob Pocius, Nancy Surace, Brian Crane, Russ Blair, Michael Burns, Jaime Bairaktaris, Audrone Tarnok. Guest Marc Hartog.

Secretary's Report: Jay made a motion to approve the November 28, 2017 General Membership meeting as posted. Seconded by Andrea. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Larry reported as of 12/31/2017 we are about \$34,000 ahead of budget. Significant differences from budget are for higher net income for CPR and EMT classes (income is greatly more than budgeted and expenses slightly more than budgeted), better than expected other donations and higher than expected capital expenses.

Committee Reports:

Training: Brian reported the EMT refresher was completed on January 13<sup>th</sup>, all students passed.

Pat reported his EMT class is progressing well and will end on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Pat will be teaching a spring/summer EMT class which will start in May.

CPR: Jay reported in 2017 we taught 2094 Students in 266 classes. From 2010 through 2017 we taught 12,854 students in 1131 classes. The new DVDs have been ordered. Instructor's workshops will be held 2/26, 3/2, 3/19 and 3/23. Norwalk Hospital is open to attend workshops.

Website: Jaime reported the website pages were duplicated, then disassembled by Chromasites and all of the text was placed into a document to be revised by Yves and Jaime. The website design is currently taking place and will be completed in the next few weeks. Once revised versions of text have been completed, they can be placed into the new website and continue with the

design process. Roughly \$5,000 was paid to Chromasites (half of our contract). The other half will be paid upon completion of the site.

Fly Car: Martin said the new Ford Explorer PD Interceptor will be here end of February beginning of March. We will be getting a small trade in value for 605.

Scholarship: Andrea Harman will represent the board and Kathy will represent the membership on the scholarship committee. No youth corps members were present to assume that responsibility.

State/Southwest: OEMS has hired the Regional Coordinator for Region three. This will make three coordinators, down from five. OEMS is looking to hire a Training and Education manager to replace the last one that quit. The budget was approved for this replacement.

At OEMS and the CT EMS Advisory Board, the big issue is the directive from the Commissioner of Health, that the State become a National Registry State. Currently only new EMT's are required to pass the Registry exam and not on re-certifications. This would change the certifications from three years to two years, change the re-cert program and require all EMT's to be 18 years old. The Registry will be at the Advisory Board meeting on Wednesday to start off the discussion.

PR: Yves said we received good press coverage in the electronic and printed media following our press release regarding the Newman's Own grant and the Lucas devices. We had standby crew at numerous special events around Thanksgiving.

House: Martin reported parts for the furniture in the dayroom are on their way.

Once the parts are in, the company who sold us the furniture will come to WVEMS and repair the furniture. The repair will be free this time.

Old Business: Brunch plans on February 10 have been finalized. All those who can't find their invitation should contact Andrea Harman. So far we have 43 attending.

The proposed bylaws revisions were circulated at the last membership meeting for review prior to the vote at this membership meeting. In summary, low attendance has made the Board question the need for six general membership meetings per year, as is currently required by our bylaws. A committee of the

Board studied this issue and is proposing changes to the bylaws that will reduce the number of general membership meetings to one annual meeting plus additional meetings to be called as necessary.

The committee believes the following goals of the general membership meetings are or will be met by other means, as follows: 1. Camaraderie – training is being well attended and includes dinner, providing opportunity for camaraderie. 2. Communications. – Email and our website will be used more extensively to communicate with the membership. 3. Voting – proposed bylaws include provisions related to voting for the budget, expenditures, nominating committee and officers/directors. Martin made a motion to adopt the changes in the bylaws as presented. Larry Kleinman seconded the motion. 13 voted in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention. Motion carried. The revisions to the bylaws were adopted following a well-disciplined presentation and debate. Yves said all are welcome to attend and participate at any of the board meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

Jaime made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Russ. The meeting was adjourned at 2045hrs.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sandi MacPherson acting secretary