

**ESA Minnesota State Meeting
Ridgedale Library, Minnetonka
September 18, 2021**

Call to Order: President Sandy Hongerholt called the meeting to order, and the Opening Ritual was recited.

Opening Thought - Chaplain, Bruce Strachota:

Secretary – Dee Rotering: A silent Roll Call was taken among those present. 14 elected/appointed board members and 6 ESA members were in attendance.

Treasurer’s Report – Dennis Marler:

#1 Motion by Karla Nicklaus 2nd Birdie Elkofska - passed

- Motion to distribute Medtox Foundation money of \$2222.50 be distributed directly to ESA Foundation for the following areas:
 - \$1500.00 to Vocational Training Grants
 - \$722.50 to MN State Endowment Scholarship

•Vocational Training Grants: For those seeking to develop skills for a new career or enhance their skills and knowledge in advancement of chosen career field such as completing requirements to obtain a trade certification or apprenticeships (cosmetology, welding, plumbing, electricians, mechanics). I.e. Veterans looking to re-enter the workforce needing training in their field of interest. Also for promoting programs and skills for training in the fine arts and those who are developing creative programs or projects that use elements of the fine arts to benefit returning military personnel.

•Career Enhancement Grants: To develop skills for career advancement through training programs to update or maintain employment credentials

#2 Motion by Betty Marler 2nd by Jodi Lang - passed

- \$2602.50 Medtox funds directly to Welcome Home Vets

#3 Motion by Lori Thorpe 2nd by Marci Haigh - passed

- \$3242.50 Medtox funds directly to Wishes and More

#4 Motion - passed

- Funds from the special mailing project at Medtox – ideas for where to donate be submitted by the people who worked the project and then one of them is drawn to receive the funds.

#5 Motion by Diane Vanusek 2nd by Betty Robinson - passed

- Donate a \$100 to the homeless of Cedric County a charity supported at the MARC convention

Budget for 2021 – 2022 – Birdie Elkofska

- Presented – no vote required as prepared by committee

Expenses:

- Dennis submitted a request and was paid for water provided for the workers at Medtox.

1st Vice President – Marcie Haigh:

- Having knee surgery but will be available by phone and email.
- October is recruitment month – handed out calendar for Facebook recruitment (attachment)
- There will be a recruitment activity in the sprint

Parliamentarian – Diane Vanusek:

- The updated Minnesota State By-Laws and Standing rules will be on the MN ESA website. Please take time to read them. If anyone has any changes to be considered, please reach out to Diane.

Welcome Home Vets (WHV) – Betty Marler/Vicky Sandhofer-Krolick:

- Thank you, Veterans Fundraiser kick, off – Like the Giving Tree last year the request is for donations of cash or checks to be used to purchase items needed for the welcome home kits. Send donations to: Betty Marler, 9145 Kingsview Lane N. Maple Grove 55369. Watch Essay for updates. Would like to surpass last year's giving tree total of \$1400
- Requests to help with deliveries is sent out via Google groups.
- 8 veterans have moved into permanent housing in the past 2 weeks. See more details on one of these wonderful stories in the full report in the appendix.
- Fundraising Screw your Neighbor card tournament and Spaghetti dinner raised \$1071 raised with donation of food, Elks, deserts, and other donations from those that couldn't attend. This money will be used for the Holiday dinner for Welcome Home Vets
- Holiday Dinner for the Vets will be November 29th. There will be a need for volunteers gain this year to prep the meal, pack non-perishables & cooking/packing/delivery the day of the event. Planning on serving this year but will be prepared to delivery if things change.
- Gamma Omega – Oct 30th at Hopkins Elks wine tasting and auction fundraising event. Looking for donations for a wine/beer "pull".

Wishes & More (W&M) – Lori Thorpe:

- Thank you for voting this one of the state projects The local program serves MN and border states (if getting care in local hospital) and provides scholarships & memorials.
- Request: Each chapter either do a fundraiser or donate.
- Upcoming opportunities to volunteer include"
 - A large holiday mailer which will be going out at the beginning of November. You can assist with the mailer by going into their office in Fridley or picking up the envelopes and supplies to bring home to complete.

- December 11th and December 18th Wishes and More is hosting breakfast with Santa.
- February 5th - Their big annual event, The Winter Ball, many ways to volunteer and donations they are looking for.

Ice Breaker

- Movie titles presented by Bruce Strachota
 - Friendly competition won by Rhonda Krehl

St. Jude Senior Coordinator – Cathy Eastlack for Julene Donnay / Dee Rotering:

- Walk / Run will be held on September 25th and has been changed from in person to virtual - Virtual cheering squad volunteers – many events to share on social media
- Style Show: NOVEMBER 13, 2021 | 10:30 A.M. - 2 P.M. Sheraton Minneapolis West
 - Events will include fashion styling workshops from 3 different boutiques, vendors, live music, silent auction and more.
 - Registration will be accepted on Eventbrite or on paper copies. We will be sending out flyers to everyone very soon.
 - Eventbrite will allow us to reach a bigger audience drawing in more people to raise more money for St. Jude.
 - Auction items – Birdie
 - Bring stickers with names and address
 - Looking for donations of beer, wine, liquor, gift cards

President - Sandy Hongerholt:

- Thank you, Delta Rho, for inviting on their Educational visiting Honest Amish community.
- Request for invites to other educational events welcomed.

Philanthropic – Birdie Elkofska:

- Proposed projects required for next year – please submit to Birdie as soon as possible so they may be invited to present
- Need people to write in what they are doing for philanthropic events - Count from the time you leave home until you get back home.
- Rhonda sends you a list of how many times you came to Medtox so that you can back into miles & time.

Medtox – Rhonda Krehl:

- Going to stay busy, no sign of slowing down so they need all the help we can get.
- Bring friends, spouse etc. – No heavy lifting, can do sitting down
- Thank you to all who volunteer at Medtox and Thank you to Rhonda for heading this up... ½ Million dollars since 2004. Informally since 2001

Essay – Terri Olson (via email):

- Articles due by next Saturday 9/25

MARC Rep – Dianne Vanusek:

- Still time to register for Wichita KS October 8-9th - Marc website has all the information – Contact Dianne for the password
- Raffle tickets available for quilt made of state t-shirts, being drawn at conference along with raffle for mystery box.
- Hope for Heros' list of items being collected – contact Dianne or one of the others in the MARC notes in the appendix

Rosters – Jen Davies

- Member roster distributed
- Thank you to Jen for making this happen

New Business

2022 MN Convention – Jody Lang

- Saturday April 23rd, 2022 at Bunker Hills Activity Center – Oak Room
- 1 Day events with the possibility of catering by The Brass Rail in Grandy MN
- More to come....

Beta Sigma Shoe Drive - Marcie Heigh

- Beta Sigma is still doing the shoe drive
- Need 2500 pairs of shoes to get free shipping and make \$1000
- Request for everyone to put it out on Facebook, ask at a garage sale if they don't sell to donate them. We are at 500 pair.
- Marcie will send out a flyer in 2-3 weeks.

Meeting Adjourned.

Closing Ritual recited.

Respectfully submitted, Dee Rotering, Secretary

Attachments:

Financial Report August 2021 – September 18, 2021
MN ESA Proposed Budget August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022
Welcome Home Vets
Wishes & More