

Camp Knutson Volunteers
Fall Meeting
August 29, 2012

The fall meeting of the Camp Knutson Volunteers (CKV) was called to order at 1:30 PM by President Lori Nelson. Lori thanked the volunteers for all their hard work this past summer. The volunteers helped in many ways including gardening, jewelry, cards, angel flights, tailgating, Taste Luncheon and Night Under the Stars. Lori introduced Rob Larson, Camp Director.

Rob Larson thanked the volunteers for filling in where needed. He reported that the new boat was in and has already had a lot of use. Monies raised by CKV also paid for autism camperships and horseback riding for the campers. He hopes to be able to repair the docks and improve the waterfront with funds raised next year. Rob appreciates all we do for Camp.

Kate Williams, Assistant Camp Director, shared that she was on the new boat last week and went tubing. The new boat is great and much appreciated. Kate shared that it was an intense, yet successful, year with new staff. Kate thanked the volunteers. The help with the tailgating on Wednesday gives us all a chance to mingle with the campers. She said the help with cleaning is huge. Kate shared a camper story about a camper at Heart Camp.

Election Committee

Lori introduced Bonnie Benson, chairman of the election committee. Other members of the committee are Jean Jones, Carolyn Forney, Donna Keiffer, and Madelyn Erickson. Bonnie Benson stated that the election committee placed Mardy Brodil on the ballot for Vice-President 2012-2013 / President 2013-2014. Nominations from the floor were solicited for each position individually. No nominations were heard. The slate of officers on the ballot was accepted. Members were instructed to vote and the ballots were collected. The slate of officers are; President - Judy Morgan, VPres. 2012-2013/Pres. 2013-2014 - Mardy Brodil, Treasurer - Joey Hodgson, Marketing and Communications - Jean Jones, Secretary - Carolyn Thompson. The vote by the membership was a unanimous acceptance of the slate as presented.

Amendment to the Bylaws

Judy Morgan presented a motion that the Bylaws of Camp Knutson Volunteers be amended in Article IV Section 1 and Section 8 to include the Membership Coordinator position as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Board of Directors. The Membership Coordinator will be appointed by the Executive Committee and will be responsible for keeping the data base for the Volunteers current. The motion was seconded by Judy Clarke. The motion passed.

Taste Luncheon-Sharon Elmquist

All the tickets are sold (216 of them) for our 3rd annual Taste on Thursday, September 13th; 11:30AM at Crosslake Lutheran Church. Lori Nelson has started a "wait list". Our cookbook is at the printer - in the cookbook we have 34 delicious/interesting recipes for you to Taste. We have changed the categories "up a bit" and hope you like our changes/additions. Our cookbook is titled "Entertaining at the Lake III" Brunches and Lunches. If you are unable to attend the Taste, cookbooks will be for sale after the luncheon at Lakes Area Gallery for \$5. They make great stocking stuffers, hostess gifts, etc.

Committee introduced. Mardy Brodil-Co-Chair, Linda Bendt-Set Up, Bonnie Benson-Clean Up, Pat Cormaney/Bonnie Morris-Recipes, Susan Derus/Gwen Orred-Ballots/Tallies/Sales, Carolyn Forney-Past Chair/Founder, Ginny Hersey-Kitchen, Donna Keiffer-Decorations, Lori Nelson-Tickets, Marilyn Schoneman-Publicity, Carolyn Thompson-Cookbook

As of today, we have the following needs:

- We need 5 or 6 people to iron tablecloths.
- If you are attending the Taste, we would appreciate it if you could stay and bus dishes afterwards.

We are looking forward to a fun-filled day with great food and great friends. PLUS we are "MAKING A DIFFERENCE" for our Camp Knutson campers! Thanks much!

Mardy Brodil is looking for a co-chair for Taste Luncheon 2013.

Night Under The Stars - Judy Morgan, Chair 2012

We had a beautiful evening for 2012 Night Under the Stars. The atmosphere was filled with great music from our 1950's band. The nautical decorations were very creative--absolutely outstanding! The Camp

grounds were "lush green". There was tremendous, active bidding with the Silent Auction in its new location, a 30'x60' tent. Guests were walking throughout the grounds purchasing wild rice, camp cards and camper made jewelry. The gazebo was the new location for the wine bar which proved to be excellent and they extended their services again this year with the "roving servers"---making it easy for everyone to get a refill regardless of where you were! The Camp Counselors, with their navy caps on, were a great addition circling among the guests, smiling and offering tasty appetizers--which they helped to make with the kitchen crew! People were socializing and having fun. The air was full of laughter and good conversation. It was a joyous time!

2012 Night Under the Stars was very successful. We had a record attendance of 243 for the evening and we exceeded our financial goals. We raised over \$80,000--combining the revenue from the silent/live auctions, sales of wild rice/cards/camper jewelry, purse raffle, lobster boil, wine bar donations and donations from individual and corporate donors. After our expenses were deducted from revenues we were able to give \$70,000 to Camp Knutson for the kids.

Why was it so successful? Several reasons,--but the primary one is because of you--the Camp Knutson Volunteer! The 14 member volunteer planning team did an *outstanding* job of leading their committees and communicating with one another to make things happen in a coordinated fashion. Over 65 volunteers participated in Night Under the Stars at different times throughout the process of planning and then the actual event. You (CKV) responded when we realized(2 weeks before the event) that we needed more items for the auctions. Within one week we had 50 more items---you made it happen, it was a terrific response. Secondly, we used the Greater Giving software which streamlined many of our processes---- guest registration/table seating, check-out /payment, auction tallying just to name a few. The software program can generate reports which can be extremely helpful to us in planning future events.

Our planning committee learned many things from our experience with NUTS 2012 which can be helpful in planning next years' event. The primary lesson learned was the need to secure auction items earlier(or at least know the items are coming !).Preparing the item for the auction requires important information about the item and donor . Also, time is needed to coordinate between the team which receives the item and the "set-up" team and the person who enters the data on the item into the Greater Giving program. Therefore, we will have an earlier deadline in 2013 for auction items to be turned in. As well. specific information must accompany the item so that it can be processed accurately.

Being a part of 2012 Night Under the Stars was a wonderful, exciting and fun journey for those of us who participated in it. It was an opportunity to work with a great group of people who wanted to make a difference in the lives of kids who attend Camp Knutson.

Survey Results NUTS 2012 - Jean Jones

One-hundred surveys were sent out which would have covered most of those attending since many were couples. Only one survey per family was allowed. To have a 40% response rate is incredible. Using Survey Monkey made it easier for folks to respond?

Here's what we heard:

1. It is very important to me to have a "sit-down" dinner for the \$75 ticket.

69% Strongly Agree/Agree, 21% Neutral, 10% Strongly Disagree/Disagree

Comments included

*several complaints about the food and service- importance of good food for \$75

*elderly have a hard time standing/walking/moving around in space

Conclusion: What we didn't know is if the question was related to the desire to "have a sit-down dinner, or if we have a charge of \$75, people would expect that level of food/service". People seemed to value a sit-down dinner according to comments, but felt that if we charged \$75, we NEEDED to have a sit down/served dinner event.

2011 survey which included only 15 participants were strong in agreement about having a sit-down dinner if we were to charge \$75 (80%)

2). I would enjoy doing something other than a traditional dinner. (Ex. Stations)

61% Strongly Agree/Agree, 21% Neutral, 8% Strongly disagree/Disagree

Comments included

*Must have the environment controlled (indoor/air-conditioned are)

* Stations seemed an option that most wanted to pursue -Talk to Linda Randall

*Some said "why change a good thing"?

*Try something unique and unlike other fund raisers

*Need to accommodate elderly folks if there were stations

Conclusion: A majority of folks seemed willing to look into something different than a sit-down dinner, but keeping in mind the cost and elderly people who may not be able to stand or walk around stations. A few had attended events with stations and noted long lines and lack of "fellowship during eating". Grilling was mentioned.

2011 survey was neutral or opposed to looking into another dinner venue (40% SD/D)

3). Both the live and silent auction are important pieces of fundraising.

84% Strongly Agree/Agree, 8% Neutral, 8% Strongly Disagree/Disagree

Comments included

*We need to have the right auction items for the live auction – Not exciting this year.

*Need to do more fun activities during the live auction (ex: sell bikes)

*Pick-up needs tweaking

*Try eliminating for a year – negative in general about the live

2011 survey: 95% SA/A no change or both are important

4) Dinner and auctions are equally important.

89% Strongly Agree/Agree, 10% Neutral,

Comments included

*Positive comments about the dinner "setting the stage" for the fundraiser.

Conclusion: Dinner and auctions are both important in the NUTS event.

5) Program is very important. Any changes?

50% Strongly Agree/Agree, 40% Neutral, 8% Strongly Disagree/Disagree

Comments included

*Some suggested dance, concert as options.

*Some said "no room to dance" NO

*Comments about the noise and lack of adequate sound system

*More camper stories and camp information (counselors)

*Good comments about the speaker and the video of camp although it was hard to keep interest in the program and the video in general

Conclusion: Program needs to be redefined and carefully evaluated if nearly half of those responding were either neutral or SD/D. We need to think about the acoustics of the room and what we can and can't do.

6) Important to have an online component to silent auction to expand bidding.

33% Strongly Agree/Agree, 51% Neutral, 15% Strongly Disagree/Disagree

Comments included

*Pictures of items would be helpful.

*It would absolutely expand the bidding and could increase fundraising.

* Like having the opportunity to bid at the event

Conclusion: Online bidding would be worth looking into. It can be done through the current website package (not on the GG software since it would be an additional component-\$), although there was not much interest on the "bid page for the admiral's table". If we concluded the sale at the event itself, there would be support.

7) There is value to online registration.

63% Strongly Agree/Agree, 27% Neutral, 0% Strongly Disagree/Disagree

Comments included

*Good job

*Yes, new guests can go on and register themselves and learn more about camp (website)

Conclusion: Online registration is worth keeping. We cannot do an E-vite through this GG system. The current online component allows the system to register guests, take credit cards, and create the system for arranging tables and guests, which you could not do on the E-vite programs that I've seen.

8) Overall Comments

Comments included

*Great event

*Leave the auction open longer

*Should we continue to raise more and more money? (creating a greedy image?)

*Volunteers were amazing – worked very hard.

*Liked the tent and auction

*Some liked the food – most said the walleye was COLD

*Acoustics were terrible

*Appreciated the registration/express check-out

- *Need to group auction items – too many
- *Wrong items for silent auction
- *Loved the appetizers and counselor involvement

9) Next year’s helpers

Several people volunteered to help, especially those that worked on committees from last year!

Planning Meeting for NUTS 2013 Lori Nelson’s house Sept. 18th at 1:PM.

Secretary Report

The minutes of the spring meeting were available on our website. Printed copies are available. A motion was made to accept the minutes from the June 5th 2012 meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Judy Morgan in the absence of Joey Hodgson, Treasurer.

2012 NUTS

Gross Revenue	\$88,579.00	
Expenses	18,121.03	
Net Income	\$70,457.97	to Camp Knutson

2012 Taste Luncheon

Gross Revenue	\$10,319.00	
Expenses	1,759.96	
Net Income	\$ 8,559.04	to Camp Knutson

CKV Bank Account was closed 12/13/11.

Balance brought forward from 2011 dues was ----	\$1,001.58	
2012 Dues -----	\$1,020.00	
2012 Donations to Canteen -----	\$ 530.00	
Total income from Dues and Canteen	\$2,551.58	
Miscellaneous Expenses	-501.01	
Net Income from Dues/ Canteen misc. account	\$2,050.57	Carried over CKV Sub account of Camp Knutson

Canteen Fund

Lori reported that a ‘Canteen Fund’ has been set up. The intent of the fund is to provide money for campers to spend in the canteen if they do not have any spending money. It costs about \$8 a week for a camper to have a daily treat from the canteen. If a first time camper doesn’t have the money for a camp t-shirt, the fund will allow the camper to pick out a t-shirt as a remembrance of camp. The Canteen manager fills out a form for monies taken out of the canteen fund and reports to Rob and Kate. To date there are donations of \$400. from CKV in the Canteen Fund. Thank you!

Gardening

Sharon Elmquist invited anyone interested to join the gardening group at Camp. Gardeners meet Wednesday mornings for some work then a coffee/social time.

Jewelry

No report. Jewelry is now a ‘Program’ and not reliant on CKV for specific funding. Jewelry is available at Night Under the Stars and the Taste Luncheon and Lakes Area Gallery all year.

Newsletter

We are working towards sending out our newsletters via email starting Spring 2013. We NEED your correct email address. Please let us know if you prefer email or US mail for your newsletter.

Membership

Sharon Barsness is the Membership Coordinator. As of August 24, 2012, there are 103 paid members. 71 names are on the list but have not paid dues. 29 of those have no email address listed. There were 5 requests to have their names removed from active membership. Sharon requests help calling members without email addresses.

Motion

Lori Nelson made a motion to spend CKV monies to purchase shelving and containers to organize our storage area in the basement of the Timberlane building. Judy Morgan seconded, motion carried.

Lori Nelson "Thank you for allowing me to be the President this past year. I've worked with some awesome people and we have worked for a common goal, the campers that attend Camp K. It is my pleasure to introduce Judy Morgan, the new President of Camp Knutson Volunteers Organization."

Judy Morgan presented Lori with gift cards as a thank you from the CKV Board of Directors for her service.

Board Members Introduced

Judy Morgan, President / Mardy Brodil, Vice Pres. 2012-2013/Pres. 2013-2014 / Joey Hodgson, Treasurer (absent) Jean Jones, Marketing and Communications / Carolyn Thompson, Secretary

Meeting adjourned at 2:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Thompson, Secretary