

Camp Knutson Volunteers (CKV) Spring Meeting

June 1, 2017

President Adele Suomela called the meeting to order at 10:55am, followed by a prayer.

1. Nine new members were introduced and welcomed to the group. 42 CKV members were in attendance as well as 12 counselors.
2. Adele talked about situations where we all have chosen to either “blend in” or “stand out”. Several members shared their experiences of blending in and standing out.

Adele shared 3 goals she has set for herself as president of CKV:

- Create an atmosphere of acceptance, encouragement, socializing and the importance of our role as volunteers.
 - Provide support for easier coverage for all volunteer duties and ensure a meaningful experience for our volunteers.
 - Establish leadership in many positions, from greeting people in our meetings, speaking at our meetings and taking on leadership roles.
3. Current Board Members were introduced:
 - Mardy Brodil, Treasurer
 - Shari Schumacher, Past CKV President
 - Gail Peterson, Volunteer Coordinator
 4. Nominations for vice president and secretary positions were requested from the floor. After the request was made (three times as per Roberts Rules), there were no nominations for vice president and Laurie Ridgley volunteered for the secretary position. A motion was brought forward to accept the approval of Laurie Ridgley to the position of CKV Board secretary. Second offered by Susan Derus. The position of vice president remains open. One of the jobs of the VP is to prepare the Spring CKV Newsletter. Since we do not have a current Vice President, this job was undertaken by Linda West. A big “Thank You” to her for completing this job for us.
 5. Treasurer’s Report: A summary was given by Mardy Brodil, Treasurer. In 2016, the CKV raised approximately \$93,000. This was nearly a record for the volunteer group. Of the \$93,000 raised, \$88,000 was spent on a new SUV for campers and for other items on the Wish List. The remaining balance of \$5,000 held over for 2017.

6. The need for a new Nominating Committee was discussed. The purpose of this committee is to solicit members for a position that is open. Several members volunteered for the committee:
 - Carolyn Forney
 - Shari Schumacher
 - Mary Knight
 - Jan Laurel
 - Carolyn Thompson
 - Dianne Engstrom
7. A new “mixer” was done to help everyone re-acquaint with members and help new members meet others. Groups were formed and members shared the schools they attended and a mentor or teacher that stood out to them during their school years.
8. Jared Griffin and Caitlin Malin gave a recap of Summer 2016 and plans for Summer 2017.
 - The theme for this summer is “WE ARE FAMILY”. Jared stressed that we want the time kids spend at camp to be one of the best experiences of their life.
 - Campers work to build their courage and strength so they can share their special talents with other campers.
 - Last year we had 1,162 campers stay at Camp K!! This was close to a record!
 - There were 25 states and Canada represented by campers.
 - A pilot program for homeless youth was conducted in the fall of 2016. There were 25 youth from Minneapolis and the Brainerd area that attended the 3-day camp. This type of camp had never been done before. Jared felt that it was a great success and is hoping to continue it again this year and expand the offering to other Minnesota cities.
 - Caitlin extended a special “thank you” to CKV saying that the volunteers are a very special and huge part of the success of Camp Knutson.
 - There are 9 returning counselors and 7 new counselors. Most come from the Midwest. College interests of the counselors vary but some are: OT, PT, PA., and Education.
9. Updates around Camp:
 - Painting of several buildings
 - New signage
10. Two counselors are Activity Coordinators for the campers this summer: Natalie, from Madison, Wis., and Mackenzie from LaCrosse, Wis. They spent a few minutes telling members about the evening theme nights they have planned, Pirates of the Caribbean, Life size board games, Transportation and Calendar Night, and planting trees with Lorax from Dr. Seuss. **They made a request for**

carpet: any size. Carpet is needed for a game they are building. Please leave your **carpet donation** at Polly's Place.

11. **Counselors need help** from members to make hot air balloon kits. Let Caitlin know if you can help with this fun and easy project.

Phone: 608-632-4201

Email: Caitlin.Malin@lssmn.org

12. There is a new Camp Partner: Firefighters for Healing. Their week at camp will be August 21-24 and will be called Camp R.E.D. (Realize Every Dream). The camp is dedicated to survivors of burns and is designed to help kids and their families who have experienced this terrible situation.

13. **The current WISH LIST for Camp K is:**

- Camperships
- Horseback riding
- New picnic tables
- Tree plantings
- Boat lift and canopy
- Bedding, blankets, sheets, pillows, etc.
- Box springs and mattresses (twin size)

14. The "Waterfront Accessibility Project" is the major fundraising focus this year. It will be the primary recipient of the NUTS funds that are raised. The current layout of our waterfront leads to mobility issues for some of our campers. The boardwalk is rotting and needs to be wider, the steps down are hazardous, and the area beneath the boardwalk is a favorite spot for bees and wasps. Jared shared an artist's rendering of the hopeful remodeling to be done to the waterfront. It showed pavers, a change in grade to the beach to eliminate the step down, a retaining wall to be redone, outdoor shower and footbath and furniture for the deck area. The proposed remodel will cost an estimated \$50,000. A very generous donor has already contributed \$10,000!!

15. When members are out soliciting for donations to the Silent Auction for NUTS, it will be very helpful to tell about the new beachfront and why it is so badly needed for the kids.

16. **REMINDER #1:** Be sure to sign in whenever you are on the campus. We care for a vulnerable population here at Camp K and so must have an awareness of who is on the campus. Please wear your wooden name tag whenever you are here, as this identifies you as a volunteer.

17. **REMINDER #2:** You must complete all forms provided at today's meeting before you begin your work as a volunteer at Camp K. You can mail to Camp or bring directly to the office in Polly's Place.

18. Mary Nielson, Chair for NUTS had a few points to share with members:

- Thank you to Shari Schumacher for designing the invitation.

- Many volunteers are needed to make this night the BEST PARTY OF THE SUMMER!
 - There is to be a derby hat contest. Come to Crosslake Lutheran Church on either June 12 or 19, 2-4pm to make your hat!!
 - Lori Nelson, Jan Laurel and Cindy Melsby are co-chairs for the Silent Auction. Last year the auction alone raised \$40,000! Check with one of these ladies before heading out to solicit prizes from businesses as many have already been approached.
 - It is strongly recommended that you fill out the **Online** Silent Auction Item Form on the Camp K web site for the auction items.
<http://campkfriends.com/3/miscellaneous9.htm>
Print out the form and bring it along with your item to the drop off times. Read the form carefully and complete ALL information that is requested.
19. A special welcome is given to Julie the new administrative assistant, Lori who manages our great kitchen and Denny for his never ending work on the camp ground maintenance.

Members were led in the Johnny Appleseed grace by Jared. Adjournment was at 12:55 p.m.

A fabulous salad luncheon was served and camp counselors joined the members for lunch.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Ridgley