

CAMP RIDGECREST ALUMI AND FRIENDS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2011 MINUTES

Attending Meeting

Officers: Steve LaSota, Scott Suggs, Adam Hewitt, Ernie Roberts

Directors: Jim and Martha Jo Berry, Kenny Byrd, Billy Gregory, Scott Luna, Jackson Norton, Alan Sanders, Will Henderson, Beth Olson, and Robert Hardy

Conference Call Attendees: Jimmie Holland, Miriam Zimmerman, and Brad Bushnell

Absent: David Budd, Steve Cothran, Mike Giusti, Hewlett Sullivan, and Phil Brown

Others in Attendance: Ron Springs, Phil Berry, Frank Johnson, Matthew Fowler, Chris Maslin and Cara Pollard

After meeting for lunch in the Johnson Spring 1 building, the meeting was opened with prayer by Chairman Steve LaSota at 1:20 pm followed by introductions by everyone in attendance. The meeting met quorum requirements with plenty of room to spare. Our alumni association is quite diverse with many talents to be brought to the table. Secretary Ernie Roberts presented the minutes on hard copy and two changes were requested. Phil Brown's name had been omitted from the summer attendees and the reference to Howie Smith was to be corrected to Allie Smith via Frank Johnson in memoriam. All changes and original minutes of both board and member meetings were approved unanimously.

The next order of business was officer reports. Steve LaSota, Chairman remarked that we need to be in better communication between officers, board and members of the Alumni Association. We have moved from one person (Jackson) to two person (Adam Underwood and Matthew Fowler) now to an executive committee (four officers and President) to continue to divide up the work load. Our hope is to involve more of the board members in the work also. Scott Suggs, Vice Chairman had cards for Hewlett Sullivan and Darryl Andrews who was 1985 Outstanding Counselor and 1986 Apache Tribal Leader. He is undergoing surgery for sinus cancer and in the recovery mode now.

Adam Hewitt reported on the treasury, stating we have \$53,108 in assets at this time. We have about \$25,000 in restricted funds for cabin renovation and scholarship funding. Giving online seems to be working fine. Ernie Roberts had nothing to add in form of a secretary report as minutes were already approved, but did say we are working on improving communication especially on the editions of the Echo being published. That would be addressed later in the meeting.

The Cabin Building committee report was presented by Steve LaSota. The cabin fundraising needs more time to finish. A main concern was how long to extend the contributions process? In promoting methods to pay, we still have the credit card option online and checks are mailed in to us at the Ridgecrest Post Office mail box. Also there was discussion as to whether automatic checking withdrawal option could be used which would incorporate a \$3 charge. This could help and utilize installments. The three parts to the campaign are still intact. First part of grass roots reaching out on the internet and by Echo/letters is still on target. Second part, the Executive Committee is working to stimulate face to face contacts in geographical regions. The third part Honor Cabin has raised almost \$22,500 with Cabin 1 in the lead. We will put your name on plaque for \$100, \$250 honor cabin status, and \$10,000 contribution will get the cabin named for you. The name could also be a geographical region if a group were so inclined. Ron said he had received a \$10,000 donation in a grandfather's memory. Still concern about need of new cabins. We need to promote that safety and aging process of the facilities make this is very urgent. Cabins 1-8 will be ready for summer time use this year. Each cabin is adding on a covered porch roof, emergency exit, more skylight, and retaining a small rectangle of past camp names, etc. Nothing on the wall is removed, just covered and the cabins appear more spacious too. Suggestion to publish progress photos on line would help put minds of alumni at ease. Discussion began on using a stop action photo camera to show daily changes in the pictures of the cabins from putting it in a tree or somewhere to snap pictures periodically. Our amount of money wanting to be raised is still \$100,000 at this point. Strategies will be further discussed in the new business section of the meeting.

Scott Suggs reported from the Webmaster committee. Updates after work weekends with photos are posted along with Facebook entries from time to time. We have found that old pictures sent in from alumni do attract attention. The Ratman tale by Steve Little can be found on here. Frank Johnson said work weekends both fall and spring have been well attended due to the presence on Facebook and email mailouts.

Ron Springs gave his director's report saying that the end of January enrollment is very close to the record breaking pace. The camp has two interns traveling for promotion and staff matters. Most interviews are being done by phone with Phil Berry doing some Skype for final interviews. Andrew Shirley will be second year AD this summer. Girls Camp still needs a horseback director and staff to assist that area. The old weight lifting shack is being made into a museum. Need volunteers for parent days (opening and closing) in camp, showing them around, helping etc. Cost for two week session is about \$1500. Last year camp overall capacity for the summer was at 92% a new record. Starter camp is still going with hopes to have 50-60 each summer. Frank Johnson proposed some of our alumni folks to get involved with the opening and closing days with some point persons to talk to parents, give food, water etc while waiting for the camp gates to open on those Sundays and someone to be a point person along with Alumni video to attend closings. He also brought three designs for 'Help Buttons' with price tag of \$40 to include setup and making 250 buttons. Steve LaSota motioned and Kenny Byrd seconded that we proceed with costs and volunteer services. The vote was unanimous.

There was no Lifeway report since Byron Hill was absent. It was reiterated that Lifeway is going to renovate the cabins regardless of our financial contributions. However, the more we can contribute, the more funds Camp will have to use for their needs too.

Jackson's video was shown with many familiar faces including Frank Johnson, Alan Sanders, Beth and Ashley Olsen, Jackson Norton and lots of great kids enjoying the summer. Many updated locations were on view too. All were in agreement that it was nicely done.

In the new business section, the date and time for summer board 2011 was set for July 9, 2011 during the session break of camp. Board would meet at 11am, lunch on own afterwards and reconvening at 2pm for the members meeting. April 8-10 was established for work weekend as Phil Berry said this would be best weekend for that opportunity. Steve Little has written a book on the history of the railroad and will donate a portion of proceeds to the alumni association. Motion was made by Steve LaSota to extend the cabin fundraising to 2013 summer celebration and seconded by Scott Luna. Motion carried without any dissenting votes.

The next item was how much money do we want to raise in the Cabin Campaign. Do we stay at \$100,000 or go higher? Scott Luna suggested aiming for August 15, 2013 as the end date for the campaign. Discussion ensued on how to raise money without losing funds for our scholarship program. There was \$9500 for scholarships raised for campers this summer (some full and some partial) but still group felt we can continue to support both projects. Kenny Byrd felt setting incremental goals of \$25,000 for the cabin campaign would be able to create some excitement. Perhaps relate that number \$25,000 as able to complete a cabin and keep adding until the campaign ends with hope of doing 5-6 from our funds. This is not a "do or die" situation as the cabins will be completed with or without our support. However, this allows other funds to be freed up for other camp needs.

How do we go about the final push? Money will be raised to "Reduce Cabin Debt" which is what we tell others without misleading them in any way. Getting the word out is essential and group decided that a monetary final goal would be most appropriate way to finish. Steve LaSota presented a motion to raise a final total of \$175,000 for the project with annual targets to be adjusted appropriately with the project ending with the calendar year 2013. Beth Olson seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor.

Cara Pollard was introduced as our Crestridge Alumni link. She hopes we can improve relations between the two organizations, share ideas, and learn from each other. Jackson suggested we invite the current Crestridge Alumni President to attend our meetings.

In other new business, the rotating board members serving the third year of their term are as follows. Steve Cothran, Dr. Mike Giusti, Dr. Alan Sanders, Phil Brown, Jackson Norton, Miriam Zimmerman, Hewlett Sullivan, and Ernie Roberts. We were not sure how many of these are serving their second term. That will need to be checked. Candidates to be considered for an upcoming new three year term are Doug Trotter, Ashley Olson, Brad Johnson, Anthony Whitmyre, Phil Brown, Holly Harris, Jay Pichard, Matthew Fowler, Len Taylor, and Scott Young. Need those who are more actively involved and those who can attend the board meetings with close location.

Nominees for the upcoming Frank Johnson Award were Dick Burts and Jackson Norton. Any further nominations need to be submitted to Ernie Roberts by end of March for voting to award at the July meeting.

Discussion for betterment of the association. The Fall Echo did not happen due to software issues and personnel matters. We did not leave last year with a specific person to be in charge therefore it got shifted around and eventually not published. The spring edition looks to be on track and Jimmie Holland will work on this. Do we do hard copy or just have it available online? Maybe one of each? Decision was made to do both hard copy and online version and ask those receiving on line if they wish for us to not send them hard copy in the mail. Miriam Zimmerman also agreed to be in charge of the Echo, IF someone will show her what and how she needs to do to make it work. The board liked that! The Echo is good for information and a tool for getting nice contributions.

We hope to give scholarships of at least \$10,000 each summer to kids in need. Girl's Camp usually surpasses \$12,000 each year. What about those who apply later and need help after previous summer allotments are gone? A committee was established as "Annual Giving Committee" to address scholarships with members Kenny Bird, Billy Gregory, Scott Luna, and Alan Sanders. We hope to outreach to churches and become items in their budgets.

We voted to table discussion on the question of president succession, term limits etc. Kenny Byrd motioned that we authorize payment of \$300 to purchase camera for filming cabin building and Jim and Martha Jo Berry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Vice chairman Scott Suggs closed in prayer at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernie Roberts