

Texas State REACT Council Meeting
March 7, 1998

Executive Session

Officers Present

Sharon Grimm, Pres
Jerry Jenninson, VP
Ed Williford, VP
Lee Besing, Secretary
Jim Coker, Sgt. @ Arms
Paula Coker, B9 Editor

Called to order 09:50am by Sharon Grimm

Discussion of agenda items for upcoming meeting

Expect \$380 so far, TX Council was in 29 campaigns, but not all results are available.

Discussion on cost of CPA Review and need to find more cost effective method of obtaining a review in future years at lower cost than the \$200 paid this year.

Discussion of proposed budget, adjust printout by adding \$180 to AWTS area and total, leaving a surplus of \$210 for 1998.

Report from Karla Koch for supplies on hand.

Need to add information about RI HQ happenings.

Break-9 deadline is May 8th.

No firm location set for June 1998 meeting.

Discussion on Incident Command Training by Forestry Service.

Meeting adjourned 10:00am

General Membership Meeting

Guests: Dianne Fanning, Exec Director for AWTS
Jim Luker, President Eagles Hall

Called to order at 10:12am by Sharon Grimm. Sharon asked that no smoking in the building.

Pledge led by Judy Thompson, Convocation by Jerry Jennison. Welcome to Eagles Hall by Jim Luker, President. Lunch will be served at 12 Noon by Eagles Hall, no alcoholic beverages will be served.

Sharon asked for new visitors, Clayton Sparks and Bill Sparks Bexar County, TJ White and Jacob Smith Comal County (Junior members)

Credentials Report by Jim Coker. Bexar County is David Ennist, Brazoria Co Norris Beard, Brownwood Leon Mcartny, Comal Co. Omer, Dallas Co. Chuck Thomposon, Houston Metro Jannell, San Angelo Barb Jennison, Travis Co. Paula Coker, Brazos Co. Noe Gutierrez. 9 teams present.

Sharon asked if everybody had received their copy of the Break-9 with the printed minutes from the November 1997 meeting. Short delay while other representatives glanced over the minutes. Introduction of other officers and members from other teams present. Motion by Dallas County, 2nd by Travis Co to approve minutes as printed, unanimous passed.

Treasurers report by Stuart DeLuca. Copies passed to all delegates. Stuart explained status and balance of Memorial Fund and stated that all Memorial Fund money is now transferred into the CD with a balance of \$1,161.00. A CPA review was performed to meet AWTS requirements and the fee was reduced to \$200 from the original \$1000 quoted by an area CPA. This expenditure was authorized by the Executive board, but we would like to find a less expensive CPA for future years. Eight out of 13 teams have subscribed their members for Break-9 subscriptions for 1998. Last year nine teams met qualifications to participate in AWTS campaign and will be eligible to share any proceeds from AWTS during 1998.

Special Program by Eric Epley of San Antonio Air Life. Flight Paramedic for SA Air Life. SA Air Life has 2 big choppers and 1 smaller one (backup). They service 150 mile radius from San Antonio. 180 missions a month flown. Radios covered lowband thru UHF. Direct 800mhz radio contact with the trauma surgeon at each trauma center to allow in flight consultation from EMT's on choppers to hospital. 800mhz contact with SA Police and Fire and EMS. All flight crews wear highband H/T radios while on duty to keep in touch. Air Life likes ground folks to alert crews to any hazards from trees, power lines, tall buildings. Night trips are harder to detect hazards. Wind blast on landing is 90mph, which is faster than hurricane force winds. Air Life uses 159.885 for operations. Problem with police vehicles leaving hoods or doors open, and winds will blow hoods and doors off, embedding dust and gravel in the inside. Top rotors are not dangerous due to 10' clearance, but tail rotor is dangerous due to 6' low clearance on many choppers. Most dangerous time to approach the craft is during shut down of rotors, safer to do while rotors running, but ask for Pilot approach permission, thumbs up, before approaching while running.

Member of National Flight Paramedic Association. Looking to form MOU's with other emergency agencies on regional or national basis. Mentioned to Eric that present today were the officers of the Texas State REACT Council and 2 directors from REACT International. Discussion about training available for Chemical and Biological Terrorist attack prevention and responses. Eric suggested REACT get access to such training if possible in their local area.

Some criteria for calling Air Life include any wrecks at speeds over 30mph, any victim who was ejected from a moving vehicle. More than 70 miles from hospital, femur fracture, long bone fracture, unconscious patients. Response is 5 minutes or less to be in the air, or 2 minutes if placed on alert prior to arrival at scene of the accident. Discussion on what time lines were involved in deciding whether to call for chopper transport, depending on trauma level. Cost is \$1000 lift off, and \$35-40/per loaded mile. Avg cost of trip to Canyon Lake and back is \$2,500 to \$3,000, but that is low compared to average cost for a Trauma Level 1 patient is \$60-100,000 facing surgery. Golden Hour is time it takes from hitting telephone pole until patient is on table in surgery room, Air Life tries to get there within 30 minutes of event.

Short break, drawing of door prizes.

Presentation by Dianne Fanning, AWTS Heard from 6 of 25 state employee campaigns, 3 of 5 federal campaigns reporting. Other agencies still outstanding reports also. August will be the 3rd annual Chocolate Sunday. Payments are quarterly, first anticipated payout would be in June 1998 from the 1997 campaign. Working to expand coverage and access to private employers.

Sharon thanked the host team, Comal County REACT for the decorations and arranging the meeting place. Lunch Break. Supper will be at the James Gang Saloon, room for 24 persons, counted 10-12 persons interested in attending.

Meeting resumed 1pm.

Stuart DeLuca thanks Bexar County, Comal County and Houston Metro for helping the council earn points in AWTS. One person in Copperas Cove who donated funds designated for REACT, has been contacted with membership information for Bell County REACT. His point was that we were getting exposure for potential new members in addition to the potential donations through our membership in AWTS. Discussion of staff levels for AWTS and methods of funding.

Report of communications received. Sharon commented on mailings from RI and other sources dealing with current happenings. Board using internet e-mail and ICQ Chat on regular basis to keep in touch.

Officers reports

Exec.VP - Discussion on following up on new membership inquiries within Texas. Discussion on Potter County REACT Situation, their representative planned on attending but was prevented due to illness. Jerry, Sharon and David Deeringer (Houston) attended the Texas VOAID meeting in San Antonio on February 16th. Report on officers for 1998, new procedure where Secretary / Treasurer moves up to 3rd VP, 2nd to 1st, 1st to President each year, and new Secretary / Treasurer is elected. Mass Care function/position on the State Level is now handled by Salvation Army instead of the American Red Cross. VOAID representative will remain in the State EOC to keep the state informed as to activities by the member volunteer organization. Discussion on training course for "National Incident Command". Initial training would be 12 hour course. Jerry asked if delegates wanted this type training to be held in conjunction with state council meeting, or if should be separate weekend. Sharon gave talk about the need for REACT Teams to get familiar with this, as all fire and emergency agencies will be required to utilize this. David Ennist said this was old news, with new window dressing to market it again. That he had taken this training through his fire department. Wrap up, Jerry asked delegates to talk to their teams and e-mail back to him within the next 30 days. If there is interest, the council will arrange for the training. Next year, there will be special VOAID Camp at another time (other than State Emergency Management Conference) and help / support from REACT needed. State EMC will be in Austin next year due to the travel expense of state employees attending conference exceeding \$8,000.

Sgt @ Arms - Jim Coker. 30 registered members, representing 9 teams. Area II 2 teams, Area IV has 2 teams, Area V has 4 teams, Area VII has 1 team. Longest distance was driven by Dallas

County REACT. Most miles driven by Team was Brownwood. Area IV got Travel Trophy, Area II went to Brownwood, Area V went to Brazos County REACT.

Communications Committee - George Grimm - Amateur Operators form 610 has changed, George has some copies available. Those thinking about upgrading, the question pool changes in July, adding questions for RF issues. Bulletin 65 from FCC covers safety survey of RF emissions in your house. If you are running base equipment with amplifiers, you will need to do this. Supplement B covers Amateur Radio. GMRS is excluded so far from this RF issue. Form 574 is available from Internet and has been revised. You must send form 159 with renewal or application that says you sent money with your application. See George for Internet addresses after the meeting or send him e-mail. FCC has been moving toward on-line registration of amateur radio license renewals. Lee talked about state e-mail server, and use of other e-mail servers and chat rooms being used. All teams except Stephens and Tarrant County have reported in with e-mail addresses.

Special Olympics - Ed Williford. Has forms to be completed for volunteers at the Summer Games to be held May 29-31st in the Houston Area. Need forms by April 1st if you want housing to be provided. Only San Angelo REACT sent members to help last year, plus Houston. Team spent about \$60 for 5 members expense. This year is Friday-Sunday event. Jerry added plea for help by other teams, saying REACT was needed in more areas than before. Will be using 800 and GMRS radio systems. Free Room and Meals provided, you will only be out transportation costs and time off from work. Houston was told they would be host for 3 years, 1998 thru 2000. They made more money last year in Houston. Need to arrive Thursday for setup, events start 8am Friday and end with ½ day on Sunday. If you don't have a radio, one will be provided.

Sharon asked all delegates to be sure to share happenings with their teams upon returns. Jerry pointed out one member of San Angelo REACT had collapsed with heat exhaustion, was taken to the hospital, and Special Olympics paid 100% of the bills.

Display of current jacket from Adventures in Marketing, for the official jacket. Lee took a photo

Paula stated the deadline for the next Break-9 will be May 8th. Some changes were presented for team contact information. Need to add e-mail for International Directors.

Sharon made request for folks to share health challenges of our members with the Council. Discussion of Richard Pratz's use of oxygen and that restricting him from traveling to REACT events or meetings more than 8 hours away from home. Sandy Dunn from San Angelo in hospital with problems. Jim Coker recovering from foot surgery and was present at the meeting with a wheelchair.

Jerry Jennison presented budget that had conservative estimates of AWTS income in 1998 showing projected surplus of \$210 at end of year. He thinks with AWTS, we may have a larger surplus. Motion by Dallas County, 2nd by Travis to adopt Discussion on the AWTS membership fee of \$350 being delayed until funds received from AWTS. Request for delegates to find accountant who might donate or provide services at reduced rates. Chuck knows an accountant

in Dallas who might do it as favor for him. Motion passed unanimously.

Sharon announced there were no bids for June 20th or November 7th 1998. If San Angelo is host, need to move November meeting to 2nd Saturday, November 14th. Due to local event in San Angelo, all hotel rooms are booked.

Travis County hosting Area 13 Special Olympics on April 3-4th in San Marcos. Friday evening and Saturday daytime. Help is needed on Saturday from other teams. REACT provided security with radio control and crowd control.

Lee talked about the Internet Store.

Sharon and Jerry talked about the letter of concerns that the council mailed to the RI Field Directors. Bob Stone and Lee Besing responded to acknowledge the letter.

Sharon discussed changes at RI, thanked Chuck, Lee, Charlie & Patti Land for going to Wichita to represent the council. She talked about how this extra support from the council showing up helped save the day at this meeting. Discussion by Sharon on RI being a “ship without a sail or rudder” prior to this meeting, but expressed confidence that the ship had regained a sail and rudder and was now under control and moving back on course.

Bexar County REACT placed bid for June 1998 Council meeting. Brazos County declined to submit bid yet. San Antonio will be site of June 1998 Council Meeting. Motion by Houston, 2nd by San Angelo, Brownwood and Travis. Motion passed. David Ennist stated that “Tent City” will open in San Antonio.

Motion by San Angelo, 2nd by Houston metro that team delegates submit written report to Paula for Break-9, motion passed. Paula asked for e-mail copy if not hand written or available today.

Report by Lee and Chuck about happenings at RI HQ. RI HQ being moved to Wichita. Reasoning given, plus facts on lease details at both locations. Christene White resigned on Friday and Robert Riechel resigned on Saturday. Chuck Thompson and Jack Murrell were appointed to serve until the elections in July 1998.

Discussion on reorganization proposals and number of directors being proposed by various people.

Discussion on whether or not RI should have the right to approve or remove individual memberships at the team level. This change happened to the bylaws in 1993. Chuck Thompson stated his personal opinion was that RI should not have the right to reject the decision of a local team. Much discussion and everyone who spoke, agreed with the opinion.

Janell Williford of Houston, 2nd by Noe Gutierrez of Brazos County motion to have the Texas State REACT Council to recommend that the teams have control over local membership instead of the RI Board, and that the RI Bylaws be ammended accordingly.

Janell Williford of Houston, 2nd by Brazos County motion to make resolution to commend Chuck and Lee for the work they have done on behalf of the REACT family. Discussion about Kentucky Council sending out resolution of support of the “new” board. Discussion. Motion passed with 1 abstaining (Dallas Co).

Motion by Houston Metro, 2nd by Brazoria County, be it resolved that the Texas State REACT Council commend the REACT International Board of Directors for becoming more user friendly and more responsive to the needs of the membership. Motion passed with 1 abstaining (Dallas Co.).

Sharon thanked those who cared enough to drive to the meetings, thanked Jerry and Barb Jennison for their support, and thanked the TX Board for their support as well.

Final Door Prizes included two (2) CB radios donated by Cobra Radio.

Ed Williford of Houston Metro won the Cobra 75WX radio.

Carla Koch of Brazoria County won the Cobra 29WX radio.

50/50 pot of \$120 split \$60/60 was won by Bill Sparks of Bexar County REACT.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30PM

Minutes submitted by Lee W. Besing, Secretary