

Minutes for the Texas State REACT Council Mtg
November 14, 1998
San Angelo, Texas

Executive Session 8am-9am Travel Lodge Hospitality Room

Sharon Grimm, Pres
Jerry Jennison, VP
Lee Besing, Secretary
Stuart DeLuca, Treasurer
Jim Coker, Sgt@Arms

absent

Ed Williford, VP

Called to order by Sharon Grimm. Discussion of items for upcoming meeting agenda. Meeting was informal and no notes were kept officially.

General Membership Meeting

Held at Shannon Women & Children Center Conference Room

November 14, 1998

San Angelo, Texas

No Guests present

17 members present, representing 5 teams.

Teams present: Bexar County (1), Brownwood (5), San Angelo (5), Dallas County(2),
Travis County(4)

Teams absent: Bell County, Brazoria County, Brazos County, McLennan County
Potter County, Canyon Lake, Houston Metro, Stevens County

Meetings called to order 10:15am by Sharon Grimm. Greetings by Jerry Jennison, San Angelo REACT President. Pledge by Jerry Jennison, Invocation by Sandy Dunn of San Angelo. (Jerry was the flag.)

Minutes presented in writing by Lee Besing. No corrections. Stand approved as printed in the Break-9.

Treasurer Report by Stuart DeLuca. Previous \$734.03 balance in checking as June 20th. Took in \$473.59 since that time (fundraiser San Antonio mtg, \$37.00, AWTS \$436.59). Spent \$414.54 on expenses, ending balance \$793.08. Stuart noted that we received \$436.59 from AWTS and paid \$209.14 to AWTS for reinvestment and member fees (partial pmt). Stuart stated there were 2 expenses not on report, \$223.92 for printing of Break-9, \$77.00 for postage to mail the Break-9. Memorial fund balance as of November 14, 1998 was \$1161.00.

Sharon discussed leads for potential teams and process of contacting them from the state council. She stated that Jerry Jennison has been in contact with each person, and was working with two folks in Abilene to try and start a team.

Officer reports:

Jerry Jennison. Mentioned published reports in Break-9 dealing with his activities in Del Rio flooding. Discussed other disasters pending around USA and Honduras. Talked about upcoming vote for RI Bylaws. Jerry has extra copies of proposed bylaws. Council gets to make a vote on this proposal. Announced some changes in meeting format for the March 1998 meeting in Austin.

Stuart DeLuca talked about AWTS. Final calculations from the 1997 campaign. The next distributions will be January and April. \$1,207 was pledged directly to REACT. REACT gets a share of the undesignated pledges/contributions. Gross total of undesignated pledges \$28601. We maxed our % points. \$1875.42 is our share of the undesignated funds, to be paid out June 1999. \$3082.42 anticipated total of designated and undesignated pledges. Estimated pledge shrinkage of \$308.25. Balance after shrinkage \$2774.22. AWTS administrative fee 12% - \$332.91, estimated net to be distributed \$2441.31. After paying back out a 25% reinvestment fee and balance of membership fee (\$250), REACT's net receipts are estimated to be \$1580.98 by end of June 1999. He urged everyone to contact any state or federal employees to check off AWTS in the CFC or to designate Texas State REACT Council as the recipient. He said to contact your local school ISD's and counties to get AWTS added. Most point of contacts are Human Resource Dept or an appointed committee.

Sharon expressed her appreciation to Travis, Comal and Bexar Counties for helping gain the participation points with AWTS. She hoped that future years would show an improvement in the council's financial conditions that would be independent from our member's pockets. Sharon thanked Paula Coker for editing the Break-9. She thanked all the officers on the board for their help in the past two years they have served on the board.

Standing Committee reports:**Communications:** George Grimm.

Amateur: Announced emergency ham frequency 14.265mhz +/- 3k designated by FCC on November 10, 1998. George encourage Amateurs to upgrade to at least Tech Plus (code required) because pending restructuring may result in Tech Plus's will be granted what is now being held by General licenses.

CB: Reminded teams to get out their CB's and make sure they were in working conditions and to monitor CB9 as much as possible.

GMRS: George had copies of Part95 FCC rules and license application forms. There is a temporary application form 570 to allow immediate use of your GMRS Radios. Electronic renewals of licenses is available over the Internet, but new applications must be by paper application. All forms are downloadable from the Internet. Payment by credit cards or sending by separate.

Nominations Committee Report: Barbara Jennison, Nomination Committee: Other members Judy Thompson, Omer Bangs and Paula Coker were on committee. Tried to get some new folks running for the board, but had "underwhelming success". They presented the following slate of officers...

Sharon Grimm for President
Jerry Jennison Exec VP,
Allan Tyler VP,
Lee Besing Secretary,
Charlie Land Treasurer,
Jim Coker Sgt at Arms,

Disaster Report:

Jerry Jennison gave report about VOAIID and Texas REACT participation during recent flooding disasters, and the operation of the VOAIID desk at the Texas State EOC. Jerry gave report about his team's activities in Del Rio area. Someone from San Angelo got 20 cell phones donated from San Antonio and got the air time donated for local calls only. San Angelo REACT used extra field programmable UHF radios to loan Salvation Army because their radios didn't have rapid chargers and they were having to shut down for ½ day when their HT's batteries died. They matched frequencies with Salvation Army and American Red Cross, plus Texas DPS and local authorities. Salvation Army provided rooms and food. Sheriff Department provided fuel for their vehicles.

Break-9 Report: Paula Coker. Next deadline is February 22nd. She asked for suggestions to improve the format and content, asking for team and officer reports. Stuart asked to reduce the cover paper to normal weight paper to save postage.

Special Olympics:

Special Olympics state meet will in Houston the last week of May 1999. Volunteers needed. Question raised about Special Olympics. Date May 27-30th in Houston. REACT volunteers treated like key volunteers. Applications for volunteers will be distributed at March council meeting.

REACT International Convention:

Charles Land reported on RI Convention held in Janesville, Wisconsin. Patti Land, Lee Besing, Chuck and Judy Thompson were present from Texas. Reported that heavy discussion on bylaws amendments during convention. Director Jim Bear disappeared in middle of the night on Saturday before the convention started, leaving letter of resignation to be delivered the next night to CEO Bob Stone and the rest of the board. Board meetings were open to the membership, very upbeat tempo. Talked about some workshops dealing with mental stress of victims and workers during disaster operations. Good footage of tornadoes by NOAA representatives. Everybody came away feeling good about the new board and the process being started by the new board. All board members were accessible during the convention and there were no closed meetings.

New business:**Proposed RI Bylaws:**

Sharon Grimm opened the floor to discuss the proposed RI Bylaws. Copies were distributed to all delegates. J.L. Riley reported that Dallas County REACT had voted to approve them. Travis County REACT voted to approve. Brownwood REACT voted to approve. Motion by Travis, 2nd by Dallas to approve the bylaws as proposed, with suggestion to board that they add ability for teams to initiate bylaws amendments. Brief Discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

March 1999 Council Meeting Plans:

Paula Coker of Travis County reported on March 1999 council meeting in Round Rock. They are proposing (with TX Board approval) to change the date to March 20th, start the meeting at 9am break for tour of the newly renovated Capital Building and lunch, return for remainder of afternoon to finish building. She invited everyone to say overnight to assist the next morning for the Capital 10k Race. Discussion on the race and past experiences. Motion by Travis, 2nd Brownwood. Motion passed unanimously to change the date and incorporate the timing changes as proposed.

Team Reports:

Travis County has a new repeater on 461.675 with 141.3 tone. Members worked the State EOC for the VOAIID chair for a week (10/19 thru 10/27 12 hours a day) thru during recent flooding in October 1998. Trail of Lights event in December 12th - 24th, volunteers needed from area teams. This year REACT and Austin Radio Club will supply all radios for this event and there will be all walk thru this time, no vehicle traffic. Team received donation of large number of laptops and printers from the Texas State Department of Health. Team has new vanity Amateur Call Sign, K5TCR, to replace KB5BRO original sign. WPKT458 is call sign for 461.675. REACT members are eligible for donations from the Texas State Government thru the Comptrollers office Web Site. They have listings of office equipment and vehicles available for donation. Site listing is updated the first of every month. Other state agencies, counties and schools get first chance at the list, 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to register. They worked the Veterans Day parade. Training pending for Landing Zone.

Brownwood reported minor flooding within past week, worked lots of traffic accidents, mostly routine activities. They have started requesting more donations from organizations they assist. They worked a dance (4-5 persons) and received \$100 donation. A school donated to them for helping with a tour of the new school. More events planned for Thanksgiving weekend to deliver meals to needy persons, several hundred meals are served, community volunteers and donates food.

Dallas County reported they had Christmas party in December and officer elections in November.

San Angelo reported they had the Concho Christmas Lights where they turned on/off the lights. There was new park dedicated this year and REACT helped with crowd control and handicap parking. They work about 35 events a year.

Bexar County reported they had been working with recent flooding in San Antonio to assist the Red Cross and ARES operations on Amateur Radio. We got another new member, Virginia Warren, and she talked her husband Malcom into joining this month also. The team worked a Veterans Day Parade on November 7th. Working Christmas in Comfort on November 28th. Probably not working the Mall Patrol at Rolling Oaks Mall this year due to lack of budget by the Mall. The San Antonio Ham Fest will be held on January 9th down near Lackland AFB on the southwest side. Photos are available on the Internet at <http://react.stic.net/flood98> taken by Lee Besing during and after the flooding. SA American Red Cross building was flooded 10/17 and had to be abandoned. All REACT's radio equipment was destroyed by flooding.

Comal County has been working many Search and Rescue missions and assisted with flooding disaster efforts in the Canyon Lake and New Braunfels area. They were asked by the American Red Cross in New Braunfels to assist with damage assessment. They worked the Austin Special Olympics on October 17th, and members were unable to return home due to flooding roads and highways in the Canyon Lake area until the next day.

Other news:

Sharon Grimm reported that a few weeks ago the ARC went to Congress to request financial aid due to the heavy series of disasters that had drained their treasury faster than donations were received.

Officer Elections held, all elected by acclamations...

Motion by Dallas, 2 nd San Angelo,	elect Jim Coker Sgt/Arms.
Motion by Dallas, 2 nd Travis,	elect Lee Besing Secretary
Motion by Bexar, 2 nd Brownwood,	elect Charlie Land Treasurer
Motion by Bexar, 2 nd Brownwood,	elect Allan Tyler VP
Motion by Bexar, 2 nd Dallas,	elect Jerry Jennison Executive VP
Motion by Bexar, 2 nd San Angelo,	elect Sharon Grimm President

Sharon congratulated the new officers and asked teams to start working on improving the council's mission and ability to improve communications between the teams in the state. She urged delegates to look at the "big picture" of how does the council fit. She said that the teams are the council, that REACT is about communications, not ham, GMRS, CB, Cellular phones, but communications to make the situation better and get the messages thru. She said the teams needed to tell the council what they wanted the council to do for them to help them.

Final report by Sgt at Arms.

20 registered members representing 5 teams. 2 more members and 1 less team represented from the June meeting. Area 2 had 2 teams. Area 5 had 2 teams. Area 8 had 1 team. Longest distance driven by Travis County with 4 members for team total 718.75. Most miles for single team is 713 and goes to Travis County. State Travel Trophy won by Area V. Area 2 Travel Trophy goes to Brownwood with 5 people and 431.25 miles. Area 5 goes to Travis County with 4 persons and 713 miles. Respectfully submitted by James G. Coker, Sgt. At Arms.

General Discussion:

Discussion on what could be done to change the meeting formats and make them more interesting, perhaps tying in with local events. Lee suggested mailing a survey to all members in Texas talking about what was discussed at this meeting and ask for ideas that would entice them to attend the council meetings. One suggestion was to have shorter 3-4 hour business meeting and some Convention like seminars or local activities for them to be involved. If cost is factor, if cost isn't a factor, what would you need to help make you come? Sharon Grimm assigned this task to Lee Besing as secretary.

50/50 pot was \$53 split. Gary Pittman of San Angelo won \$26.50

Meeting adjourned 4pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lee W. Besing, Secretary.