

Texas State REACT Council
Board Meeting Mtg
November 6, 1999
Brownwood, TX

Officers Present:

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

Officers Absent:

Allan Tyler, VP

Meeting called to order at 9:15am.

Charlie Land reported on treasury, AWTS distribution expectations.

Lee Besing talked about his experience with making presentations before the San Antonio Water System on behalf of AWTS.

Sharon Grimm reported that she had a copy of the new video from REACT International. Sharon said she had called every Texas team to confirm their attendance at today's meeting. She reported that the team in Bryan-College Station was probably not going to renew due to declining membership. She explained to each team that they had an obligation to send at least one delegate to each council meeting to represent them.

Stuart DeLuca gave a brief synopsis on AWTS. Said AWTS needs to expand membership, that their member agencies now number 35. He talked about the need for REACT members to help with recruiting prospective AWTS member agencies and to help get inside the private companies or public sector agencies.

Discussion on last issue of Break-9, problem with lack of content and articles by Jerry Jennison. Suggestion by Barbara Jennison to ask teams and officers to submit articles in addition to reports from the team for the Break-9. Topics about Radios, Community Service, RI happenings.

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General Membership Meeting
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Officers Present:

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Jim Coker, Sgt @ Arms
Lee Besing, Secretary

Officers Absent:

Allan Tyler, VP

Teams present:

Brownwood, Bell, Bexar, Brazoria, Comal, Dallas, Travis, San Angelo

Teams absent:

Brazos, McLennan, Potter, Houston, Stephens

Meeting called to order by Sharon Grimm at 10:10am.

Copies of the June 1999 meeting were distributed in writing to all delegates. Correction to show that Houston Metro was not present during that meeting. Minutes stand approved as corrected.

Treasurer report by Charlie Land. Beginning balance June 20, 1999 was \$206.33. Ending balance \$942.68. Expenditures included distributions to teams of \$1003.58 (\$111.51@ 9 teams) Teams receiving AWTS distribution checks included

C Bell
C Bexar
C Brazoria
C Brownwood
C Comal
C Dallas
C Houston Metro
C San Angelo
C Travis

It was noted that Chuck Thompson returned the reimbursement check for delegate expense at the convention. The check would be reissued and he will be making a donation back to the council so that it showed up as a donation on the books.

Inquiry about the Longview Texas lead provided during the June meeting. Unknown if any action has been taken.

Jerry Jennison reported on VOaid, and plans by Texas State Emergency Management to open the EOC in Austin for 2-3 weeks around the Y2K crisis time period. Charlie Land of Travis reported he had heard requests for Amateur Radio Operators to man a skeleton crew during this time and to be on standby just in case. State wide drill ran using Amateur Radio this past month in anticipation. About 1200 operators checked in from around Texas. Purpose was to establish contact with at least one

operator in every county in the state. State EOC built a new communications van based upon ideas gleaned from San Angelo REACT and Dallas County REACT's mobile communications equipment. Jerry Jennison reported on a new web site, <http://www.charitygift.com>, where folks can make donation to any charity / not for profit organization. There is a small % charge for handling the funds. Stuart DeLuca reported that AWTS is registered already, and suggested that Texas State REACT Council be registered with this organization.

Sharon Grimm reported that Alan Tyler is working today, unable to get time off while they re-tooled their plant.

Budget: Charlie Land presented a Y2K budget showing a net income of \$184.07. Motion by Dallas, 2nd by San Angelo. Motion passed.

Income

Break-9	370.00
AWTS	2081.75
Donations	50.00
Memorial Fund interest	47.27
Dick Pratz memorial	125.00

Expenditures

Break-9 Printing	500.77
Break-9 Postage	182.60
AWTS Membership Fees	0.00
AWTS reinvestment	603.01
AWTS disbursements	1003.58
RI Delegates	200.00

Charlie Land reported on new radios that were advertised in REACTer magazine for \$185 that would operate on GMRS and 440mhz Amateur band. He has become an authorized dealer for this line of equipment and will sell to REACT Teams at actual costs plus shipping and tax (if applicable). They have ordered one to test. Same manufacturer as the folks who make ADI radios. Also has microphones, rapid chargers and programmers available. He hopes to have a report on the serviceability of this new radio available after the first of the year.

Credentials Report by Jim Coker: 23 persons representing 8 teams.

Keren Pratz donated Richard Pratz's REACT Watch to the council to be raffled off in a Chinese Auction. All money goes to the council. Jerry Jennison to conduct the auction later in the meeting.

Charlie Land reported that Special Olympics has not secured a site for the Y2K summer games, but are in negotiation with a location in the Dallas area. Dates are normally the week prior to and ending on the Memorial Day weekend. But no date nor institution name has been released. They were considering a 1 year contract for Dallas, and return to San Marcos for 2001.

Lunch was provided by the host team, food from local restaurants (Chicken Express & Underwood Cafeteria). Dinner will be provided by similar arrangement.

Communications Committee: Universal Licensing is now available thru the FCC's web site, new GMRS licenses are 4 letters and 3 numbers. GMRS rules adapted to allow normal use on .675 repeaters for non-emergency. Discussion on setting restrictions on repeater via tones, etc. to control users on a repeater. Amateur licensing renewals are also available thru the web site at <http://www.fcc.gov>

Sharon Grimm showed the new PR Video from REACT International. The video lasted about 20 minutes and was hosted by Lance Eck as the spokesperson. It was produced by Fred Lanshe and the Public Relations Committee at no cost to REACT International. A copy was mailed free to every council.

REACT International report by Chuck Thompson, VP & General Counsel, and Lee Besing, Director and Secretary, for REACT International. Reported that changes at the RI level, plus new bylaws, has opened up the operations to become more effective and responsive to the membership. The primary goal is to Agrow REACT® and reverse the trend of membership. He urged the council and each team to do their part in increasing membership at the local levels, plus starting new teams. Membership in current teams are aging and younger members are needed.

Discussion on lack of content in the last Break-9 newsletter. Deadline for next issue is January 14th. Jerry Jennison stated that each team should designate one person to send in a summary of team activities, complete with any available photos. Each council officer should write his column and submit an extra article for filler material. Responsibility for the content should be shared with the teams, officers and editor of the newsletter. Barbara Jennison talked about her Writers Club and how they collected news and articles for their newsletter. She talked about regular topics or columns to be included, duties assigned to officers or other person to write that article. Charlie Land talked about a proposal to convert the newsletter to electronic format and distribute via e-mail or web based distribution with Adobe Acrobat PDF format. He will see if his company will purchase the software to be used in providing this format. Lee Besing talked about a web site, <http://www.free-pc.com>, where you can sign upon a list for a free Anew® PC computer and free Internet Access. The Agotcha® is the inclusion of banner advertising on the right side of your screen while access the web with this service, or using this computer. Several REACT members around the USA have already received their Compaq Presario Pentium computers. Discussion on how Richard Pratz handled missing articles in the past, other editors stated how they handled this problem. Sharon Grimm asked that we not wait until the last minute before submitting articles. You can submit articles by e-mail to the Break-9 editor, Paula Coker, at kb5ehp@texas.net, or via mail to 2708 Deeringhill Dr., Austin, TX 78745-5112. You can call her at (512)416-9585. Fax is available if you call in advance.

A sympathy card for a member, Bill Hamrick, of Brazoria REACT who died last Thursday after undergoing surgery and contracting pneumonia.

Stuart DeLuca talked more about Another Way Texas Shares (AWTS) and the history of fun raising in the state of Texas. The following figures are Stuart's recollection and may be slightly incorrect, but the trend is clear. More member agencies are needed to expand the appeal basis for individuals, companies, or agencies to make donations or allow AWTS to solicit contributions from their employees.

In 1996, 40 agencies, raised 201k

In 1997, 38 agencies, raised 187k

In 1998, 36 agencies, raised 165k estimated (report not complete)

In 1999, 35 agencies, campaign pending

Potential members for AWTS must be not for profit, 501(c)(3) organizations and NOT members of another fund raising federation, such as United Way, etc.. The council gets points for bringing in new members, and for gaining access to private employers or public agencies. All Stuart was asking was for contact information, company name, address, phone numbers, and contact person to be forwarded to AWTS. Send info to Stuart DeLuca via e-mail at Akc5qfc@texas.net, phone (512)836-2861, or PO Box 180922, Austin, TX 78718-0922. E-mail or phone recommended for expediting the process.

Potential applicants are located in San Antonio, San Angelo, Dallas and Austin. Stuart asked Lee Bensing to handle San Antonio contacts, Jerry Jennison for San Angelo, Chuck Thompson for Dallas, and he or other AWTS representatives will be contacting the dozen or so agencies in the Austin area.

Team Reports:

San Angelo - Jerry Jennison read an award plaque, special recognition, presented to their REACT Team for providing assistance with the Three Sisters Fire on July 21st by manning traffic barricades and other assistance. Presented by the San Angelo Mayor from the city council, in October 1999. Following this fire, REACT and Salvation Army will be called anytime there is a 3 alarm fire or greater to assist, and the Fire Dept will be donating a trailer to REACT for use in transporting their barricades or other equipment. In addition, they work the 28 days of the Concho Christmas Lights (in December, raised \$4k last year in donations) and the Fiesta, plus the usual Athons@ (bike-a-thon, run-a-thon, walk-a-thon). This year they tried having a garage sale a couple of weeks ago and made nearly \$500. The majority of items were donated by a member who was moving out of the area and didn't want to move the items. They will have another sale in the Spring. They have one of their communications van (the small one) up for sale. They don't use it enough to make the operations cost effective.

Bell County - Spring Hamfest every spring and fall. Christmas Party at 6pm on December 4th at Keren Pratz's house. Trying to renew all life members for 2000, and have a newsletter for their members. Many members active with their Amateur Radio licenses.

Brazoria County - The team will be working at the Festival of Lights and Christmas on the Square in Angleton. 2 members getting married on January 29th.

Travis County - Paula Coker was railroaded into serving as Prez for another term. November 13th, will be helping with Infant Car Seat Inspection by providing traffic control at the location. Working Veterans Day parade on 11th, Fun Run for Adapt on 21st. Team will be working the Trail of Lights in December (12th thru 23rd). Will have another Starflight Landing Zone class on February 12th, class takes 3 hours.

Dallas County - Christmas party on December 13th. Working several longer distance Athons@ to provide communications. Rick Short will become the new team president, after Chuck Thompson steps down, having served 14 years in this position. Rick is a manager for a Radio Shack Store.

Bexar County - We worked several events over the past few months, including a Blue Grass Festival in Medina, Texas (60 miles NW of San Antonio on Hwy 16), the Great Hillcountry Pumpkin Patch (a childrens event held over 3 weekends) in Medina. We worked a Veteran Day's parade on November

6th, and will be working the nationally televised River Parade in downtown San Antonio on the Friday after Thanksgiving. On the 27th, we go north to Comfort, Texas (75 miles NW of SA) We'll be helping with Comal County REACT on December 11th for their area Christmas Parade, and will hold our Christmas Party on December 16th. Members will be assisting Travis County with their Trail of Lights during December. During the recent hurricane evacuations and subsequent shelter operations our members assisted in various capacities.

Comal County - Working closely with Heidi Search Center using the pair of blood hounds to track down missing persons all over south central Texas. Working Christmas Parade on December 11th.

Brownwood - The team is real good at working ball games, parades (Veterans Day, Christmas), homecoming parade for Howard Payne in October. They hosted the council meeting. Brownwood PD called REACT for assistance on October 30th when a major power line collapsed across Hwy 377 and arcing. All traffic had to be rerouted and downtown traffic lights were disrupted. REACT took over all traffic operations. They barricade off streets and redirected traffic around the scene. They have been working frequent grass fires by providing water and other support to the Red Cross. They worked a train derailment (6 cars haz mat) back in June 1999. Evacuation area would have involved entire town up to 3M plant if the cars had leaked. Some members are taking scuba lessons to form a dive team for search & rescue operations. They cleaned the bottom of an area lake for training and received publicity for doing this. George Grimm will be the new president for 2000. They have attracted some younger new members.

Door prizes... Birdhouse won by Sharon Grimm of Brownwood. 50/50 pot of \$35 won by John Green of Brownwood.

Chinese Auction of Richard Pratz's REACT Watch. Total of \$71 raised, won by Chuck Thompson of Dallas County.

Lee Besing reported that there were 3 Rapid Response Teams being formed at the RI level as part of an exploratory program. They are seeking funding and grants to pay expenses and equipment for these teams. Similar to what Florida is already doing, and some local Texas teams with their communications van/trailer and being called out to assist during disasters.

March 4, 2000 Council meeting undecided location. Lee asked to see if Comal County or Bexar County would agree to host this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45pm. Food for dinner to be provided by the host team.