

Texas State REACT Council Mtg
Sattler, TX March 4, 2000
Hosted by Comal County REACT

Teams Present

Bell County
Bexar County
Brazoria County
Brownwood
Comal County
San Angelo
Travis County
Houston Metro

Teams Absent

Brazos County
Potter County
Dallas County
McLennan County
Stephens County

Meeting called to order by president Sharon Grimm. Sgt @ Arms Jim Coker reported 8 teams represented by 24 persons present at this meeting.

Delegates were introduced from each team. Lee Besing introduced his new bride, Pat Knight, who was in attendance during this meeting. They got married on Valentines Day (February 14, 2000).

Minutes distributed in Break-9. It was noted that in the communications report printed in the Break-9 (but not part of previous meeting minutes) that there was a table listing the new requirements for Amateur Radio licensing, and the spaces between the 1., 2. etc. were missing and making it harder to read. Minutes accepted as printed.

Treasurer report by Charlie Land. Beginning balance \$786.35, ending balance on March 4, 2000 of \$869.10. He noted donations in memory of Dick Pratz from Potter County of \$50 went into the memorial fund. Income consisted of \$100 donation from Chuck Thompson (Dallas County), Bell County REACT \$30 for Break-9 subscriptions, \$184.37 from Another Way Texas Shares. Expenditures totaled \$231.62 for printing and postage of the Break-9.

Motion by Bell County, seconded by San Angelo, that the check from AWTS be held over for inclusion with the 1998 shares rather than being distributed immediately to the qualified teams. Motion passed.

Charlie Land reported that we needed to have a financial review every 2 years in order to continue participating in AWTS at a cost of \$200. Motion by Bell County, seconded by Travis County, approving payment of \$200 to conduct a CPA financial review of the council's records in order to qualify for AWTS. Motion passed. Review will be conducted by Barber & Associates in San Antonio.

Sharon Grimm read e-mail from Noe Gutierrez, Jr. of Brazos County REACT #3386, reporting that his team would not be renewing for 2000 due to other radio clubs in the areas meeting the community needs and their lack of membership and resources.

Sharon Grimm, with assistance from Jerry Jennison reported that Leon McCartney of Brownwood died suddenly of a heart attack last Tuesday (02/29/2000). Lillie McCartney survived him. Funeral services were being held today and Sharon Grimm came to the council meeting, but the rest of the team remained behind to attend the services. Any letters should be sent in care of Sharon Grimm, 1108 Ave. W. Brownwood, TX 76801

Officer Reports:

Jerry Jennison asked for a round of applause for the Coker's on the quality of the Break-9 issue, and made a commitment on behalf of the officers to continue to submit timely reports to the editor for inclusion in the Break-9 issue.

Jerry Jennison reported he is the 3rd vice president for Texas VOAID this year and attended a meeting last month representing REACT. One of the goals of each VOAID officer is to attend at least one of the local VOAID meetings during the upcoming year. He stated that officials were not forecasting very much rain anywhere in Texas, and that an increase in grass fires is predicted. It was reported that the REACT members in Oklahoma City were the first reported spotters of the 1999 big tornado in OK City area.

Stuart DeLuca reported on AWTS status and membership drive. Deadline for state employee's campaign has passed, but federal campaign and others are still pending. Reports from the 1999 campaign indicate that there was a 25% increase in donations over 1998. He will be again be chairing Chocolate Sunday in August 6, 2000 held in Austin at Barton Creek Square Mall. He noted that this was the "Sales Tax Free Weekend" and they expect the crowd at the mall to be larger. He will be trying to attract more vendors (35-40) for this year's event. Mr. DeLuca reported that there was an annual meeting of AWTS, and we needed to appoint delegates to represent the council during this meeting on Friday, April 28th. This meeting is open to anyone who wants to attend. He noted that the council had previously appointed himself and Mr. Besing as the delegate and alternate to AWTS, but that for this meeting we could appoint new delegates or keep the current ones. Mr. DeLuca talked about the problem of getting affordable financial reviews for all member organizations to avoid the problem each member organization being able to afford this requirement.

Motion by San Angelo, seconded by Bell County, to appoint Stuart Deluca as delegate and Lee Besing as alternate delegate for representation in AWTS. Motion passed.

Mr. Jennison asked if every team present at this meeting conducted annual audits (internal or other). All delegates indicated they conducted some form of audit. It was mentioned that an audit was often required for all fund raising or grant requests. Mr. Land explained the difference between an Audit by a CPA, a financial review by a CPA, or an internal audit by team members who weren't involved in the funds.

Allan Tyler requested that we get a itemized treasurer report to make it easier to keep track of funds received from AWTS and which campaign year the funds applied. Current we have received \$273 from the 1998, and this amount is already included in the balance shown in the council's checkbook.

Paula Coker, Break-9 Editor announced April 14th would be the deadline for the next issue. She asked for articles and newsletters from teams, along with photos. E-mail to kb5ehp@texas.net is acceptable.

Carla Koch, Supplies Chair, reported she had some ideas for REACT shirt transfers at affordable costs. Lee Besing reported that REACT International was updating their web store and making "outside" supplies from other councils or sources available thru the RI Supply Catalog. <http://www.reactintl.org> is the web site. They will be installing a toll free fax number for the RI office to facilitate communications with the member. There will not be any online credit card processing from the web store, due to fears of non-members buying on the site and the need for a credit to be issued when such purchase was made, thus incurring expenses of transaction fees.

Sharon Grimm presented a report from George Grimm on Communications Committee: George reported on the new Amateur Radio licensing requirements as a result of the new licensing restructuring. She read a list of how many questions were on each license class, and a summary of the changes made. Recommended that you visit www.arrl.org for updated info about the different classes.

Lee Besing presented summary report of his recent trip to Washington, DC for the REACT Board meeting. He announced that Stuart DeLuca was the new editor of the REACTer and the chairperson of the Publicity Review Committee. He summarized the 15 pages of minutes from that meeting.

Stuart DeLuca talked about a new survey that will be mailed out to one of every 18 REACT members to develop better ideas of the membership structure.

Comal County REACT conducted a demonstration of their search dogs, with Sharon Grimm walking away from the scene out of sight of the dogs and then Sassy followed the trail and found her inside a nearby building. CCR also has their refurbished trailer on display along with copies of recent photos taken at events.

Charlie Land of Travis County REACT, is now a dealer for Pryme Radios, and demonstrated the new GMRS radio from that company. He had 5 units with him and sold all during the meeting. For the time being, he will sell to Texas teams at actual cost plus shipping, which is about \$150 for the radio (radio, antenna, trickle charger), spare NiCad batteries are \$30, drop in chargers are \$30, leather cases are \$12, hand microphones \$18, boom ear/microphones are available also. The radios can be cloned once a master radio has been programmed. The programmer is available for \$75. Batteries are rated at 8 hours, but actual use of the radio will affect the battery life. Cost for radio, extra battery, case and drop charger would be about \$230.

Lee Besing announced that he was seeking re-election to the REACT Board of Directors for a second term as Regional Director for Region 7, the area covering Texas. Motion by Travis County, seconded by Bell County, to endorse Lee Besing as a candidate for Region 7 Director in the 2000 elections. Motion passed.

Sharon Grimm brought up the subject of setting the date for the June meeting to June 17th. Motion by Bexar County, seconded by Comal County to move the date to Saturday, June 17, 2000. Bell County REACT has offered to host the meeting in downtown Temple, Texas, probably at a Korean Baptist Church where their team president is a member. The team will supply a free lunch, and have lots of door prizes. San Angelo REACT delegates indicated they had budgeted for hosting a council meeting and will go back to ask their team to host the November 4, 2000 meeting (officer elections). Bids are also needed for the March 2001 meeting. Motion by Bell County, seconded by Comal County, to accept the bid from Bell County REACT to host the June 17, 2000 meeting in Temple. Motion passed.

Jerry Jennison talked about a new meal for disaster areas like the MRE, but these were hot meals. You remove it from the box, open a salt water packet, pour on a magnesium pad, put the food packet back on the pad, slide back into the box, and the food is ready in 14 minutes. He said that he demonstrated one of these meals at a team meeting and ate it for dinner, and it was very tasty and met the advertising specs.

Keren Pratz donated Dick Pratz's brass REACT belt buckle for a Chinese auction. Jerry Jennison conducted the auction, which raised \$35. Winning bidder was Carla Koch of Brazoria County REACT.

Team Reports:

Travis County REACT – Stuart DeLuca reported on team events, they worked the Trail of Lights during December. Reported that Mr. Coker had surgery and had his foot removed. Team members stood by for the Y2K scare at police and fire department locations in conjunction with ARES and area Amateur Radio Operators. Coming up are Saturday, March 18 and Sunday, 19th, Winedale Arts and Crafts Festival, just east of Giddings. Traffic & parking coordination is needed. April 2nd will be the Capital 10k Race in Austin. April 9th they will provide support for the Ride for the Roses, from Austin (100 mile bicycle race). Contact Stuart DeLuca for to help with Winedale or Cap10k events, Jim or Paula Coker for the Ride for the Roses.

Houston Metro REACT – Jannel Williford reported they worked Area Special Olympics event with 40 radios with 7 schools involved. Most of their planned events for the spring are benefits for Special Olympics. Summer games will be at the University of Arlington (Dallas area) on May 25-27th.

San Angelo REACT – Barbara Jennison reported that for the entire month of December they conducted the Concho River Trail of Lights with 2 million lights, turning the lights on and off, and manned the barricades for 31 days straight. They received approximately \$4000 donation. For Valentines Day, their members delivered flowers for a local florist. This year they got \$5.95 per delivery and earned \$1300 in one day. They started out at \$1 per delivery, moved up to \$2 the next year and \$5.95 for 2000. The florist found that they could not meet demand without the assistance of the REACT members to deliver the flowers. They will also deliver flowers for Mothers Day. They installed a base radio at the flower shop, and used radios to coordinate the deliveries to minimize problems and timing. They are now within \$500 of having their year 2000 budget funded with the donations from the two events. Some members took off work for Valentines Day, worked in pairs for deliveries, members covered their own gas expense but the florist provided lunch. With the team owned building and vehicles, their overhead is higher than most other teams. They have many events planned thru summer, work average of 30-40 events per year.

Bell County REACT – Keren Pratz reported that all of their members were Life REACT members and they only have three working members. They are trying to recruit new members and help out at two Ham Fests in Belton; April 29th is the next one coming up. Location is the Bell County Expo Center in Belton. They are attending a Skywarn Training class on March 25th. They work Labor Day and Memorial Day weekend at McClennan County's holiday safety break.

Comal County REACT – Omer Bangs reported on how their search dogs have helped with getting news coverage, but they have not experienced much results from the articles or coverage asking for new members or donations. Team members helped with the Trail of Lights in Austin, helped the Eagles with their Christmas Dinner, and the Christmas Parade in December. They have a Chili Cook-off in Sequin in April.

Brazoria County REACT – Carla Koch reported they would be working a circus in April.

Bexar County REACT – Lee Besing reported that they had many events in recent months and in the upcoming months, and promised his team president would submit an article for the Break-9.

Brownwood REACT – Sharon Grimm reported they saw a videotape of level 5 tornadoes from Oklahoma during a Weather Watch / Skywarn training class. They have a race the first weekend in April, a regional races with multiple high schools. They have a new patch for the team's rescue divers squad, which she showed the circular white and blue patch with a red scuba diver superimposed. They went out to get certified and Sharon Grimm was the volunteer / victim to be rescued. They will be practicing more search and recovery diving. They are recruiting younger members to help with this new team.

Jerry Jennison talked more about the National Weather Bureau's Skywarn training. They have decided that tornadoes don't drop down and touch the ground, they start on the ground and become visual as the dust and debris builds up and rises from the ground. It starts small and builds to cause damage.

Sharon Grimm took count of people wanting to eat dinner together tonight. Several places were suggested in Gruene and New Braunfels. Approximately 15-20 persons indicated they wanted to go out for dinner.

Alan Tyler conducted the second Chinese auction with a uniform shirt from Dick Pratz donated by Keren Pratz. Winner was Les Cantrell of Comal County REACT and we raised \$19 for the council.

50/50 pot of \$50 was won by Omer Bangs of Comal County.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm

Minutes submitted by Lee Besing, Secretary