

Texas State REACT Council Board Meeting
November 11, 2000
San Angelo, TX

Officers Present:

Sharon Grimm, President
Jerry Jennison, Exec. VP
Lee Besing, Secretary

Officers Absent:

Alan Tyler, VP
Charlie Land, Treasurer
Jim Coker, Sgt @ Arms

Guests

Pat Knight, Bexar
Walter Banks, Brownwood
George Grimm, Brownwood

Meeting called to order at 8:30am by president Sharon Grimm. Treasurer's report read by secretary Lee Besing as provided by Charlie Land for last 2 meetings. Minutes were printed in Break-9. Discussion held about ways to increase interest in other teams attending the council meetings, such as training in various areas, hazardous materials, public relations, and traffic directions. Discussion held about who the former presidents were in the council.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10am

Texas State REACT Council Meeting
Membership Meeting
November 11, 2000 -- Veterans Day

Officers Present:

Sharon Grimm, President
Jerry Jennison, Exec. VP
Lee Besing, Secretary
Jim Coker, Sgt @ Arms

Officers Absent:

Alan Tyler, VP – Attending son's final senior varsity football game.
Charlie Land, Treasurer – Attending friend's wedding in Austin.

Teams Present:

Bell County
Bexar County
Brownwood
Comal County
San Angelo
Travis County

Teams Absent:

Dallas County
McLennan County
Houston Metro
Brazoria County
Stephens County
CBA Potter County
Angelina County

Meeting started at 10am by President Sharon Grimm. Pledge led by Pat Knight (Bexar), Convocation led by Gary Pittman (San Angelo). Welcome to San Angelo offered by San Angelo President Gary Pittman.

Bill Murphy introduced the special guest speaker, Colonel Steven Arrington, from Goodfellow Air Force Base. Col. Arrington is the Vice Commander of the 17th Training Wing, Goodfellow Air Force Base. He talked about the difficulties and personal trauma experience in a mass casualty situation, and the rigors of being a member of a recovery team for the military. He showed a 12-minute video designed to train disaster response teams, taken from many hours of actual footage from a wreck involving two military helicopter accidents. He talked about how REACT could interface with the military, with contact thru the on-scene commander who “owns” the site. Col. Arrington was the on-scene commander for this accident that occurred at a test range in Nevada on September 4, 1998. The video and presentation was very graphic and moving, emphasizing the importance of controlling the scene of any accident and the behavior response of those who are working the scene or related to the victims of the event.

After short break... the meeting resumed with a thanks by president Sharon Grimm for San Angelo’s hospitality, the great program and room decorations, plus their help in picking up Keren Pratz from the bus station last night to get her to the hotel.

Credentials report by Jim Coker. Six teams represented with 13 persons attending (plus guest speaker) *{Note: five more local members showed up later in the meeting- Secretary}*

Secretary report: Minutes were published in the Break-9 and on the council’s website in advance of the meeting. Extra copies of the Break-9 were available at the sign-in table at the back of the room. Minutes approved as printed.

Treasurer’s report: Charlie Land was unable to attend, but sent a written report to be presented in his absence. The report for the June 16, 2000 meeting showed beginning balance from March 5, 2000 with \$869.10, Total of \$451.63 received, \$151.64 expended, leaving a balance in June of \$1169.09. Since June, we received \$379.86 and expended \$342.45, resulting in a balance as of this meeting of \$1206.50. There were two checks still outstanding from Bexar County and one other team’s AWTS distribution. At this meeting, two envelopes were opened revealing we had received a \$25 donation to the Memorial Fund from Bell County for Chuck Button who passed away September 26, 2000. One \$115.61 invoice from Insty Print for printing of the current issue of the Break-9. Report approved as read and all bills approved for payment. Lee Besing reported that he and Charlie Land would arrange for the CPA to audit/review the books to keep us qualified for AWTS requirements so we can participate in selected campaigns, such as the Texas State Employees Charitable Campaign. This expense had previously been approved by the delegates but had not been accomplished.

Sharon Grimm talked about the improvement in getting materials out to membership / team inquiries by REACT International. Jerry Jennison reported that Angelina County wrote back to him to advise that they would regretfully be unable to attend today’s meeting, but wanted to attend future meetings. Jerry will be visiting them in person within the next few months. Jim Coker advised they had received e-mail from that team with article for the next Break-9 and that they now had a 4th member in their team.

Lee Besing talked about the council's website briefly about asking teams to provide him with info about when and where each team meets, and a schedule of planned events so that other REACT members or visitors to the site could attend if they wanted to.

Sharon Grimm pointed out this issue of the Break-9 had new phone numbers, addresses and other critical info that you might want to keep a copy.

Jerry Jennison made report on Texas VOAIID meeting, which he attended. The next VOAIID meeting will be November 28, 2000 in Austin at 1:00pm at the Emergency Operations Center. Jerry has been appointed as the southern territory coordinator for the SATURN Net (Salvation Army), covering 16 states. This means that the Salvation Army will cover some of his expenses. At his last national meeting in Wisconsin, Jerry met some representatives from Emergency Medical REACT from New York. He asked if it would be possible for REACT International to provide him a list of REACT Amateurs living in the states for which he is responsible. Lee Besing stated that RI was already working on developing such a report to be printed by state using the existing membership database and made available thru the Regional Directors or State/Province Council. Jerry explained that the VOAIID officers needed to remember that they have to not only represent their member organization, but the interest of the entire VOAIID organization as a whole. Sharon Grimm explained that REACT has the unique ability within VOAIID to provide inter-organization communications to help glue the organization together. Jerry stated that it has taken 10 years for the SATURN program to be recognized by Salvation Army as the official communications arm of the organization. There was a problem understanding that there can be no territory boundaries in the communications arena during disasters, that communications need to be passed regardless of which agency was in charge or involved.

Numerous door prizes were awarded, including glass mugs to be engraved with the winner's name.

The host team provided a buffet style lunch. Dinner plans are to go to a restaurant called Mejor Que Nada (means "Better than nothing") at 6:15pm. After counting hands from those wanting to attend, it was decided that we would be leaving from the hotel at 6pm and caravanning to the restaurant.

Special Olympics: Next year's games will again be in Arlington, Texas. David Behrend from San Angelo worked last year's event and gave a brief report on what REACT did to assist during the event. San Angelo, Houston and Dallas helped last year.

Communications: George Grimm talked about recent changes in Amateur Radio licensing and testing. The national VECs have made a decision to eliminate the multiple-choice exam for code. George predicted that W5YI group will change in July, and that ARRL examiners will change some time before then. Questions asked about FRS Radios and MURS Radios (those little color dot radios for sale at Sam's Club, etc.) Discussion about the channel 1 call channel proposal on FRS and the Global Positioning System (GPS) built into a special model of FRS radios for a one-year test. It was noted that Comal County REACT was going to be sponsoring a Ham Class starting next week.

Report on AWTS written by Stuart DeLuca, read by Paula Coker. Stuart DeLuca is now serving chairperson of AWTS thru May 2001. He hopes to expand membership from the current 39 up to 45 by next year. He asked that anyone who knew of an eligible not for profit agency to give him contact info so that they might be invited to join. AWTS wants help in gaining access into private employers. Lee Besing made 10 presentations last month on behalf of AWTS before the employees of the San Antonio Water System.

Sharon Grimm asked that Pat Knight (Bexar) get with Mark Byrd (San Angelo) to design a state council brochure. Samples of San Angelo and Bexar County's team brochure were distributed to attendees, plus a copy of the AWTS brochure.

Break-9 deadline to submit articles is January 12, 2001. Discussion held about date of delivery on last couple of issues.

Lee Besing & Pat Knight talked about what happened at the July REACT Convention in Florida. Lee summarized decisions and events that he knew about and stated a full version of the minutes were available on the REACT International Website.

Unfinished business: Jerry Jennison as Exec. VP will be in charge of the audit of the books. It was recorded in the last meeting's minutes that an audit committee had been appointed, but it was noticed that Charlie Land was appointed and can't server since he is the treasurer being audited. Sharon Grimm asked that Jerry appoint a third person and see that an audit is conducted and a budget prepared for presentation at the March 2001 meeting. Jerry will work with the incoming officers to see that this is done.

The next meeting will be held in San Antonio on March 3rd. Lee Besing talked about ideas he had to increase attendance at council meetings, possible alternate meeting dates. Discussion held about Lee's idea of focusing the state council toward membership growth ideas and attitudes.

Lee Besing said that he was going to approach Dallas County REACT to host the June 2001 council meeting and we should consider inviting teams from neighboring states to attend our council meetings.

A suggestion was made to hold the November 2001 council meeting in Lufkin, Texas and to ask the new team (Angelina County) to assist in locating a suitable meeting place and hotel. Lee Besing called Carl Smith, president of Angelina County via mobile phone and he agreed to have his team host this meeting since that gave their team a year to prepare.

Elections: Report of the Nomination Committee by Paula Coker (Travis). Other members were Pat Knight (Bexar) and Irene Carpenter (Brazoria). The nomination committee presented the following slate of proposed officers:

- Lee Besing (Bexar), President
- Alan Tyler (Brazoria), Exec. Vice President
- Alfred Fronefield (Bell), Vice President
- Pat Knight (Bexar), Secretary
- Serena Martin (Brownwood), Treasurer
- Travis Martin (Brownwood), Sgt@Arms

No other nominations from the floor for the office of president. **Motion made by** Brownwood, 2nd by Bell County to elect Lee Besing by acclamation to the position of president. Unanimous vote by delegates was made to approve this motion.

No other nominations from the floor for the office of exec. Vice president. **Motion made by** San Angelo, 2nd by Travis County to elect Alan Tyler to the office of Exec. Vice President. Unanimous vote by delegates was made to approve this motion.

No other nominations from the floor for office of vice president. **Motion made by** Bell County, 2nd Bexar County to elect Alfred Fronefield to the office of vice president. Unanimous vote by delegates was made to approve this motion.

No other nominations from the floor for the office of secretary. **Motion made by** Travis County, 2nd by Brownwood to elect Pat Knight to the office of secretary. Unanimous vote by delegates was made to approve this motion.

No other nominations from the floor for the office of treasurer. **Motion made by** Bell County, 2nd by Travis County, to elect Serena Martin to the office of treasurer. It was noted that Serena was Sharon Grimm's daughter and current treasurer of Brownwood REACT. Unanimous vote by delegates was made to approve this motion.

No other nominations from the floor for the office of Sgt-at-Arms. **Motion made by** Travis, 2nd by Bell County to elect Travis Martin to the office of Sgt-at-Arms. Travis Martin is the husband of Serena Martin. Unanimous vote by delegates was made to approve this motion.

Sharon Grimm opened the floor to ask for comments from teams, reports on activities, etc.

Keren Pratz, Bell County, reported that they still had two events in the public at the Belton Ham Expo in the spring and fall. Their team is holding a Christmas party at her house on December 2nd and invited other REACT members to attend on an RSVP basis.

Jim Coker, Travis County, reported they would be assisting Comal County on December 9th for a Christmas Parade, December 10th thru 23rd they would be running the Austin Parks & Recreational Annual Trail of Lights in Zilker Park every evening. Due to the distance that Paula and Jim live from Austin, they are going to be very short handed. Volunteers need to be in position by 6pm. Special controlled parking patrolled by police will be available for REACT volunteers. The team Christmas Party will probably be on Sunday, December 17th around 3pm that date, so they can finish up and make it over to the Trail of Lights. REACT supervises the other volunteers operating on radios. Show starts at 7pm-10pm each night.

Gary Pittman, San Angelo is working the Concho Christmas Trail of Lights from December 1st thru 31st. Is one of their major fund raising events. They let a local ham club use their building facilities to conduct a yard sale to raise over \$500. REACT got good exposure by letting hams tour the facility. It takes \$8-10,000 to pay insurance, repairs and overhead to run their vehicles and maintain their building. Roselle Hall took a course in grant writing and obtained a grant this year to purchase a new 800 trunking radio system for their van and a new GMRS repeater to replace an ailing repeater. The new repeater is a commercial grade repeater. They support three

repeaters now. They also deliver flowers for florists during Valentines Day and Mothers Day, where the team keeps the delivery fees.

George Grimm, Brownwood, said they just held office elections and noticed some former members wanting to come back in. Some of the younger members want to revamp their uniform code, saying the current uniform is “fuddy duddy”. Team has obtained substantial grants to cover repeaters, building maintenance, training courses for members. They anticipate being involved in a Christmas Parade, and assist with planning and coordinating routing of meals for Thanksgiving to needy or housebound families. There is a community Thanksgiving dinner, and some meals are delivered to folks who can’t or won’t come to the dinner in person. REACT members deliver meals all over the city. This year they are using a computer to route the delivery to avoid duplications and will use community volunteer drivers to make the deliveries.

Pat Knight talked about Comal REACT having the search dog team for missing persons. Membership is at a high for recent years, doing well financially, working 2 community parades each year, Halloween and a run-a-thon. They are doing an on-line auction for a king sized quilt (info in Break-9 and on website), that will be given away on March 3rd. They have been running training sessions with the dogs to train members how to coordinate missing person searches using the dogs.

Lee Besing, Bexar, reported their team elections would be later this month and we expect to elect a new president, Deiter Belletz, plus Lee had been nominated for team Secretary. We just got a new (to us) gas powered golf cart. He talked about their working with Southside Neighbors Against Crime (500 members) to get them using radios while patrolling and inviting some of their members to join REACT if interested.

Jim Coker reported that Noë Gutierrez from Bryan is moving to Austin. Lee Besing said that David Ennist from Bexar is moving to Austin and Charlie Land has moved to half way between Canyon Lake and San Antonio.

Star Flight is holding training Classes February 10th 9am-Noon in Austin for Landing Zone Training for Life Flight type medical emergency helicopters. Open to REACT members. You learn what to do or not to do.

Weather training being held by Brownwood in February, date not set as of this meeting.

It was suggested that these dates be posted on the website to share with other teams or interested persons. Sharon Grimm suggested that anytime a team has a special event or training opportunity to share with the other teams. She suggested perhaps the June meeting would be a good time to bring each team’s equipment or special assets to share and display to the other teams or the public.

50/50 pot \$19 won by King Walker of San Angelo. Balance donated to the council. Lee Besing to take the money to Charlie Land, treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm

Minutes submitted by Lee Besing, Secretary