

VMN-HRC General Membership Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, 9 September, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President, Shirley Devan, at 6:00 p.m. It was held in the auditorium of the Human Services Building, 5249 Olde Towne Rd., Williamsburg, VA 23188.

Shirley began by asking Judy Jones to introduce our two 2015 nature camp scholarship winners:

- (1) Shenan Cole, a 6th grader from Queen's Lake Middle School, had prepared a powerpoint for us which gave an overview of the daily life of the campers as well as the various classes and projects in which they participated. Her specialty was Botany.
- (2) Heather Herrick, a 7th grader at Hornsby Middle, was also a botany "major" and regaled us with a poem about her nature camp experience.

Next Shirley called upon Linda Morse, VP/Programs, to introduce the evening's speaker, Dr. Greg Hancock from William and Mary, who provided a 45-minute program on "Full of Filth and Slime: Death, Disease, and Drinking Water in the early Jamestown Colony in Virginia." The fascinating research conducted for this project involved a team of 12 including geologists, hydrologists, archaeologists, and historians. Dr. Hancock explored the high death rate of the earliest Jamestown settlers by reviewing their own records/writings and walking us through the data collected by the various specialist researchers to support or refute various theories about the causes. The audience enjoyed his humorous conclusion that they should have been drinking beer (as they would have been doing at home) but that there were no women there to make it! Dr. Hancock then answered questions about the presentation for about 15 minutes.

After a short break with snacks, the meeting reconvened about 7:40.

Shirley asked Deb Woodward to give Mike Woodward's membership report:

- Lisa Nichol and Joe Beene from Cohort IX have been fully certified.
- We have a new member from the Tidewater Chapter, Fred Matthies
- Joanne Sheffield and Bill Wallace have reached the 250 volunteer hour milestone
- Nancy Barnhart has reached the 1,000-hr milestone!

Shirley then had Cohort X members in attendance stand for recognition and applause. She reminded everyone that attendance at this meeting merits one hour of continuing education credit for the program and one hour of volunteering for the business meeting.

She also gave a recap of this year's regional VMN conference in Wakefield and explained that from now on state-wide conferences will alternate with regionals.

On another topic, she noted the toolbox donation of sturgeon bones and scales from one of our recent field trips.

Next she announced that we will be changing venues for our meetings due to an 18-month renovation project which will begin in the new year at the Human Services Building (HSB):

- General membership meetings will continue at the HSB through October then move to James City County Library in Croaker November through June, except for the December 3 holiday party which will be held in New Town once again.

- Board meetings will be held in the HSB for October and November.

- Basic Training classes will be held in the HSB through November then move to the Freedom Park Interpretative Center.

So far, all alternative arrangements have been free, involving no additional costs for meeting space.

On a new topic, Sarah Lewis will post New Quarter Park calendar events for which volunteer hours can be earned.

Deb Woodward noted that Basic Training, which is our chapter's largest expense, has a remaining budget of \$7,379.28. A complete Treasurer's report is presented at each board meeting and filed with our hard copy minutes each month.

Jennifer Trevino introduced the Cohort X members in attendance and gave an overview of their recent and near future activities. Their picture has been printed in the Daily Press.

Next, Jan Lockwood, Volunteer Projects chair, gave an overview of (1) the mastodon dig project being conducted by Jerre Johnson, and noted that Kathy Cross is coordinating HRC participation; (2) the Colonial Parkway National Park Bio-Blitz project (HRC volunteers will be assigned to teams, no experience is necessary). Jennifer introjected a cautionary note that Cohort X members may not participate in volunteer projects until they have completed their Risk Management Training (September 26). Shirley noted that cash donations to the mastodon dig can be made to "VLM--Mastodon Project."

Gary Driscoll and Adrienne Frank, Continuing Education coordinators, reminded everyone that volunteer opportunities are posted on our website. They also asked that members notify them of other appropriate programs so they can be publicized. Dean Shostak questioned whether there might be Continuing Education credit for the camping field trip to Skyline Drive in November. That option is being explored.

Doug Dwoyer asked for any newsletter items that folks want to submit and noted he hopes to have the newsletter out by the end of the month.

Judy Jones reported that we are in a current hiatus of activity in terms of outreach projects.

Under the heading of hospitality, Maud Ann Wilson discussed the October 24 picnic at Ted Sargent's. Information will be sent out soon. Joe Beene and Barb Bucklin conducted our doorprize event (no tickets sold), and announced the four lucky winners.

There being no further business or any other announcements, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Carey, co-recording secretary