

SLRE Board Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024

Present: Roger Amborn, Susan Halvorson, Skip Van Kessel, Rick Liljegren, Eric Kaiser, Julia Rulla

Absent: Heather During, Cindy Hnatek, Carol Holm, Mary Jackson, Al Makynen, Cindy Richey

- March 21, 2024 minutes approved; motion by Roger, second by Skip, and approval by all members present
- **Treasurer's Report**
In Al's absence, Roger reported SLRE has \$5300 in hand for 2024, with 4 of 5 contributions from new donors (Essentia, Irving Community Club, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and The Pillars). Recurring donation received from The Rotary
- **Sponsorships**
Julia will be sending thank you letters to sponsors and voiced support for including sponsors in the end of the year volunteer thank you event. After more discussion, it was agreed to, instead, hold a mid-season sponsor thank you, picnic-like, hot dog event at the sports courts at Pier B. It was noted that Al does a thank you event for The Rotary.

The Rotary's \$500 donation is specified to address safety and will be used to purchase a First Aid Kit, 8 new life jackets, a spare prop for the 150, and a push pole. Al will continue as liaison with The Rotary.

It was noted that the previous "summer picnic", most recently held in 2019 was a merely a social event for participants

- **Marketing**
Julia will obtain logos from Essentia, Irving CC and The Pillars to be placed on the boat. If needed, any outdated logos will be removed

Eric and Al appeared on The Lift on WDIO with Bailey Warfield earlier this week to promote the SLRE Volunteer Round-Up scheduled on 4/23/24 and felt it was a good experience and worthwhile. Roger discussed plans to invite WDIO personnel to ride the pontoon later in the summer

Roger and Susan attended a meeting of area facility administrators, social workers and others on 4/3/23, held at Duluth Heights Lodge. Both felt this was a great opportunity to meet facility personnel and represent SLRE.

- **Boats**
Roger and Skip will move the boat from storage in Proctor on 4/20/24 and take it to Roger's driveway where it will stay until, weather permitting, it is moved to Pier B on about May 1. In the meantime, Skip is assembling volunteers to prepare the docks at Pier B at 9 am on 4/24 and 4/25.

Roger reported that Jeff Foster has offered to provide a boat ride on his Coast Guard boat for SLRE volunteers during the summer.

- **Scheduling**

Susan reported that there are 11 trips scheduled by sponsors so far. Some sponsoring organizations have not yet scheduled. An additional 10 non-sponsoring organizations have requested trips and have received an email welcoming their request and explaining that scheduling will commence on May 1.

One small group of individuals has made a request and we will work to accommodate it with other individuals.

Susan noted that everyone she has spoken with is very positive about the 2024 SLRE season and looking forward to participating.

- **Volunteers and Volunteer Round-Up**

Rick reported that over 35 people have signed up to attend the 4/23 Volunteer Round-Up to be held at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Rick has arranged the caterer, with the minimum of 50 commitment, which will also cover those not yet signed up. Most of the attendees so far are returning volunteers.

Eric and Skip discussed their presentation plans with special attention given to preparation of AV equipment. Eric will bring a portable PA system.

Other preparations include: Rick, Carol and Susan will have laptops at the Round-Up and are prepared to assist volunteers in completing initial registration for Sign Up Genius on sight with an emphasis on helping all to be ready to proceed with signing up for trips after Captain and Mate training has been completed. Written instructions will be provided explaining the sign-up process that occurs after initial registration. Julia has removed the SUG advertising popups that have been confusing in the past. There is a SUG tutorial on the SLRE website.

Board members will arrive between 3:30 and 4 pm to assist with preparations. Susan and Mary (Lilgegren) will greet and register volunteers at the entrance. Roger is bringing beverages and Rick is bringing desserts.

- **Training of Volunteers**

Eric provided the Board with copies of his prepared training materials, including Tips for Volunteers, Captain Training Checklist, Mate Training Checklist and SLRE Cancellation Procedures. Julia will be placing all of these materials on the SLRE website.

Eric plans to offer training from 10 am to 12 noon on Tuesday, May 28, Thursday, 30 and Wednesday, June 5, with training planned to last one hour. Julia will place training sign-up lists on the website. Make-up days will also be scheduled as needed. Eric felt that this scheduling arrangement worked well last year.

Captains will be practicing piloting the boat mornings, the week of June 10.

Eric will provide a list of all trained volunteers to both Julia and Rick. Julia will then send each trained volunteer an invitation to sign up on SUG for trips in June. Rick will continue to maintain an up-to-date list of trained volunteers.

- **May Board Meeting**

Julia will be in Duluth the week of May 6 and there was unanimous agreement to **reschedule the May board meeting for May 9 with a location to be determined.**

2024 Meetings

May 9, 2024, June 20, 2024, July 18, 2024, August 15, 2024, September 19, 2024, October 17, 2024, November 21, 2024

Submitted by Susan Halvorson (filling in for Mary Jackson, Secretary)