

Newcomers of Catawba Valley General Meeting

January 13, 2016

President Dianne Straley called the meeting to order at 10:45 am at the Hickory Airport and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December general meeting. A motion was made by Adra Kryszczuk and seconded by Kay Norusis and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Joe Paussa introduced two guests, Addie and Lonny McSherley who had moved here from Ohio. Pam Wagoner introduced member Eric Koch to tell us about the guardian ad litem program in our area. Eric gave us an overview of his involvement and then introduced Sidney Smith who is in charge of the guardian ad litem in Catawba, Burke, and Caldwell counties. She talked about the training involved and the needs for GALs in the area. Of the 759 children in the foster care system in those counties, less than half have a GAL to help them through the court system. She told us how we could get more information about this wonderful volunteer opportunity and become involved.

John Bates reminded us that the Humane Society of Catawba Valley is our charity for the first quarter of the year and that we could find out about the needs of the organization on their website. Jane Bowers from the Humane Society will speak at the February general meeting about the organization and give us specifics about what they do.

The 50/50 raffle was held and Harriet Bates was the winner of \$30. The other \$30 will go into the treasury and will be given to the Humane Society. Vince LeGrand gave the treasurer's report and told us that the month of December started with a balance of \$3629.61, income for advertising and miscellaneous was \$49.00, and expenses were \$1099.75. The expenses included \$814.50 for the holiday party and the rest for advertising, hospitality, supplies, and charity. This left the balance as of December 31 at \$2578.86. Money for dues is starting to come in and all present were reminded that dues are \$25 a year per household until March 31 but will be \$30 after that date.

Dianne told us that the board will OK the nominations for new officers at the board meeting in January, but we are still in need of some people to step up and be committee chairs. Brian Hoover will be leading the web team and has already been working on the website to make it more up to date and secure. Newcomer members will create their own passwords once the website is completed and some other changes will be made.

During Open Mic, Dianne told us that the presenter at the April General meeting will talk to us about hiking in the area and is looking to borrow a laptop and projector for that day. Dianne asked us to contact her if we have that equipment. A potluck dinner is being planned for January 29 and more information about that event will be going out soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35. The next board meeting will be held on January 27 and the next general meeting will be February 10.

Submitted by:
Barb Beck
Secretary