



Meeting of the Board of Directors

February 11, 2018

Peak Veterinary Referral Center

Williston, VT 05495

Board members in attendance: Brian Carten, Janet Dooley, Lori Hayer, Emily McLean, Susan Parker

Others in attendance: none

President Emily McLean called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Emily moved to approve the December minutes as written, seconded by Brian; the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Janet provided the Treasurer's Report as of February 10, 2018 as well as a monthly summary for 2017.

Member Support Report

In Muffy's absence, Emily discussed her renewal report – renewals are at 83% which is up over last year despite an increase in dog and/or members retiring or passing away. There are 316 active members as of 1/1/18 and 27 new members in the last quarter (Oct – Dec 2017). Emily discussed the idea of beginning renewals earlier in the year, perhaps September, so members are renewed before the new year. New stickers need to be provided before visits beginning in a new year and beginning the renewal process would assist in that. Another suggestion from Muffy, discussed by Emily, was adding a "*founded in 1990*" or "*established in 1990*" to our logo to define us/differentiate our status vs some of the new entities beginning to crop up.

Emily had a suggestion to order stickers with our logo and to give out on visits and a draw string bag with logo for new members which would hold their bandana, stickers, bumper sticker, and tags.

Mentoring Program/Team Support

A discussion about the creation of a mentoring program to help new teams feel more connected, especially in more rural areas, help with gaining a comfort level with making visits, or assisting new teams find facilities to visit. Questions as to who would be mentors and would all new members get a mentor or would it be on request, and how else we could serve our members. Janet had a draft Google survey that was reviewed and edited based on suggestions. Further discussion will take place after getting the results of the survey which will hopefully give additional info on what our members need and their interest in a mentor program. This led to a discussion of the possibility of a paid part-time person for the roll of volunteer coordinator.

Other

Janet reported out on an idea/suggestion of Craig's with regards to Pet Peace of Mind program which unites hospice programs with therapy dog organizations to provide volunteers to assist those in hospice care take care of their pets. There was some discussion of this being a volunteer opportunity vs a program of TDVT. There was a general consensus that our Facebook page would be the best way to relay this opportunity to those interested.

Crisis Response update

Susan discussed the FEMA training available online. She and Brian will be taking the training and reporting back. Susan mentioned that a volunteer coordinator could be helpful for being a first point of contact for a crisis. There was also some discussion of how we'd organize our crisis training – for both dogs and handlers – which included getting a licensed therapist to provide info on trauma and crisis in various situations.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

Submitted by: Lori Hayer, Secretary