

Escapees Chapter 29 Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
October 6, 2018

Board members present: Craig Rickenbach, President  
Steve Gerner, Vice President  
Don Smart, Secretary  
Terri Wirtz, Treasurer  
Dianne Wood, Newsletter Editor

President - Craig Rickenbach opened the meeting at 9:18 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and introduction of Officers. Craig then made the following announcements:

- Thanks to Linda Stevens and Bruce & Connie Long, the Rally Hosts, for doing an excellent job staging the Fall Rally.
- Members John & Sue Martin, who live in New Bern, could not attend because of the extensive devastation in their community. Although their home survived, they have a neighbor whose home was destroyed, and who is temporarily living in the Martin's RV.
- The get well card passed around for members to sign was for Jim Jackson, a charter member who is very active in the club. Jim is in the hospital with a blood clot in his arm.
- Raffle to be held during meeting for two free night certificates donated by the campground.
- Spring Rally April 4-7, 2019 at Raleigh Oaks RV Resort. See newsletter for details. Rally hosts will be Mike & Lorraine Tasto with support from Craig & Marie Rickenbach. Tentatively there will be a pig roast at the rally. There will be a rally fee to be determined. Sky Med will provide breakfast one morning and make a presentation of the Sky Med medical evacuation plan.
- Reservations for the Spring Rally should be made ASAP since the club is limited to 25 sites.
- Fall Rally October 3-6, 2019 will be at Bear Creek RV Park & Campground in West Asheville off I-240. Deadline for reservations is July 1, 2019. Club will have 30 sites. Rally Hosts are needed for the fall.
- ACRE (All Chapters Rally East) will be April 29 – May 5, 2019 at Pine Mountain RV Resort in Pine Mountain, Georgia. It is being held in Georgia and Steve Masterson is the current President of ACRE. Registration for ACRE begins January 1, 2019. Boot Camp, presented by Escapees, will be April 26-28, 2019 prior to the rally. RV Weigh will be available at the same time. Registration for Boot Camp must be completed thru the Escapees.com website. Complete details will be in the newsletter.
- Elections for Vice President and Treasurer will be held at the conclusion of the Spring Rally general membership meeting. A volunteer is needed for Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Question was asked: "Why are dues checks made payable to Terri?"

Craig explained the reason for this. Two volunteers, other than Board members, were requested by Craig to meet the requirement for an annual Treasurer audit at the end of the fall membership meeting.

- Chapter officer job descriptions will be in the next newsletter and posted on the website.
- The 59<sup>th</sup> Escapade will be in Tucson, Arizona March 17-22, 2019. Details are in the Escapees Magazine.
- The cost of campgrounds is rising because of the need for bigger campgrounds to meet Chapter needs. It is necessary to go into resorts to find the facilities and amenities needed, and be able to negotiate a suitable number of sites to be set aside for the rallies. Choices are limited.

#### Secretary's Report – Don Smart

Secretary read the minutes of the General Membership Meeting of April 21, 2018. Motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

#### Vice President's Report – Steve Gerner

- Nominations for Vice President and Treasurer are needed. Steve Gerner is not sure he will be able to continue as Vice President. Terri Wirtz is undecided whether she will run again for Treasurer.
- Request was made for two members, other than officers or their spouses, to do the Treasurer audit at the conclusion of the meeting. Michael Tasto and Helen Young volunteered.
- Blankets made at the Spring Rally for veterans in the Asheville V.A. hospice will be distributed Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. Chapter members are encouraged to participate.

#### Treasurer's Report – Terri Wirtz

- There is money in the account
- Congratulations to Linda Stevens and Bruce & Connie for not exceeding the income for the rally. \$3.16 added to the treasury prior to the meeting.
- There is not enough in the account to pay for another free rally. Until remitted dues accumulate, additional free rallies will not be held. Sufficient funds need to be held for t-shirts, patches, and other expenses.
- The Treasurer's Report will be attached to the next Secretary's Report. Beginning balance \$1,345.38 at April 29, 2017. Ending balance as of October 7, 2018 is \$1,273.96.
- Shirts are still available for members who want them. Terri will check availability of size 4XL for those who want them. We are out of patches. The treasury does not have enough funds to place an order at this time. They will be available at the next rally.
- Terri asked new members David & Robin to introduce themselves.

- The chapter gained 8 new members this year, lost 10 members who did not renew membership.
- If dues are not paid by Spring Rally, members are removed from membership.

Officer at Large Report – Steve Masterson (absent)  
No report

Newsletter Editor – Dianne Wood

- There are 591 people on the mass mailing list.
- For couples, each individual is now on the mailing list if each has an email address.
- Each year Dianne requests an updated listing of all Escapee members in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Virginia in order to send emails asking if they would like to be added to the Chapter mass mailing list. However, Escapees will no longer provide a list because of privacy laws. We will still be able to pick up Escapees member inquiries thru the Chapter website.
- Members always get emails first, then non-members.
- New directory will be available in couple weeks and emailed only to members. The directory is never posted on the website. Members may decide what information they wish to appear in the directory (Phone number, address, etc). Email address is required to receive the newsletter.
- New member pictures will be taken by Steve Wood for the directory after the meeting.
- New newsletter sections are “Member Classifieds” and “Cautionary Tales.”
- Each newsletter will also include member RV services recommendations.
- Dianne explained what a “convergence” is. Members should email convergence details to Dianne for dissemination to club members.

Sunshine Report – Helen Young

- Card being circulated for Jim Jackson.
- Any member who knows of a happy occasion, illness, etc. should let Helen Young or Dianne Wood know so that the Chapter can send a card.

Old Business – None

New Business

- Group photo to be taken at conclusion of meeting.
- The Rally Coordinator, Bruce Long, would welcome any suggestions for future rally locations. The Rally Guidelines will be published in the newsletter so that each member knows what is suitable. Making

a suggestion does not obligate member to contact campground or be a rally host.

- Door prize: #1 Bobbi Jo & Arnold O'Neal #2 Michael & Lorraine Tasto (drawn by Michael Tasto!!)

Meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM.