

# Steele County CAER Minutes

Oct 15, 2014

6:00 PM

## Location:

Owatonna Fire Hall

## Call To Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Tom Karnauskas.

## Attendees:

Iris Johnson, Tom Karnauskas, Karen Fontaine, Dee Kirchner, Mike Johnson, Alex Newbowers, Chris Gannon, Mary Fink

## Routine Approvals:

- Minutes of July 16, 2014 were approved.
- The Treasurer's Report was unchanged and had no expenses with a balance of \$1,800.77 and was approved.

## Old Business:

1. **2014 Business Continuity Program** – Dennis and Tom have not gotten together yet to discuss this.
2. **Disaster Assessment Training** – Training was held on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. There were 22 students. It went very well. Steve Bonine with the Red Cross taught the class.
3. **Drill** – Mike wants to hold the county drill with the hospital after the CERT class holds their disaster simulation exercise on the same night. Mike will talk with Sandy and the hospital about this.
4. **Badges** – We are still waiting for a decision on what the badges are to look like before they can be issued.
5. **Sand Bag Policy** – Mike has a draft to present to both the city and county boards. This policy is to control how many bags residents take so that everyone can get some.
6. **Debris Clearance Policy** - The policy will state when debris will be collected and that is has to be sorted.

## New Business:

1. AMEM Awards:
  - a. Tom Karnauskas  
Outstanding Volunteer.
  - b. Steele County SKYWARN  
Joe Strub Memorial Award.
  - c. Mike Johnson  
Meritorious Service.



2. Proposed meeting format going forward:
  - a. Adjust meeting frequency:  
Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, and Nov.
  - b. Rotate locations:  
Medford, Owatonna, Ellendale, Owatonna, Blooming Prairie, Owatonna.  
Motioned by Chris and seconded by Alex and was passed.
  - c. Adjust start time to 6:30pm.  
Motioned by Dee and seconded by Karen and passed.
  
3. Board member elections.  
Members at large Sandy Hardy-Hagen and Lon Thiele and VP/Secretary Iris Johnson reelected by majority approval.

## **Member Reports**

### **Allina Hospital**

### **American Red Cross**

National Red Cross is going through another three year organizational change with more staff and offices closing. Minnesota was chosen as one of the states in the pilot program and is now just one region with five chapter offices. Other offices are being closed and some staff laid off and others being transferred. The Faribault office is closing and Sharon Olsen was laid off. The on call service we currently use has been unreliable so a new service is being arranged. We responded to one call over the past 3 months. Steve Bonine with Red Cross taught the DA class last month for all volunteers interested in attending.

### **CERT**

CERT is going to have another session of classes coming up. We have been doing some cleaning up and are planning our upcoming Annual Meeting in January.

### **Chamber of Commerce**

### **Clothesline**

Mary shared that they are going high tech by using computers. The Cold Drive is ongoing and they are collecting coats. A Murder Mystery Play fundraiser is coming up on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Civil Air Patrol**

We have a new ES Officer, SM Alec Newbowers. He has a plan to get cadets qualified as Ground Team Member qualified in the next 3 months.

We are currently moving from the current Squadron Headquarters to the Old Terminal at the Airport. The lease was just signed this week. This will be a good transition for us.

On Sept 1 our Logistics Officer was deployed to Kuwait for 4 months with the Air National Guard. This is the second person associated with our Squadron to be deployed this year.

Our Annual 5K Runway Fun Run at Sunset was a success, even with the warm weather. While we had fog issues again this year, numbers were slightly down, but was still a successful Fly In Breakfast.

## **EMS**

## **Food Shelf**

## **MN/VOAD**

## **RACES/ARES**

1. Mini Field Day was held in September. An informal opportunity to get together and try experiment with equipment in the field.
2. License class planned for the spring time.

## **SKYWARN**

## **RSC 911**

## **Salvation Army**

### We had two programs run in August

- 1: Back to School- we gave away 817 backpacks with school supplies in 3 different cities
- 2: Shop with a Cop- we took 22 children shopping with 13 officers. After they shopped they went to Spare Time Bowling for pizza and bowling with the officers.

### Now:

It has been a busy season for homelessness and utilities disconnection. The weather is getting colder and people are starting to seek shelter. The "Cold Weather Rule" starts on Oct 15th. Most utilities companies are doing what they need to do to get residents caught up on their bills before this date.

### Future:

Thanksgiving Baskets: Our plan is to hand out 30 Thanksgiving baskets to families in need.

Kettle campaign: Will be starting at the end of November. This is our biggest fund raiser of the season. The money raised goes to the service extension office to fund programs and the needs of the people in the community.

## **SCPH/MRC**

Karen shared an Ebola handout. She asked for input on how to get Ebola information out to the public. Suggestions included holding public meetings, newspaper articles and Television. The ECHO website was mentioned as a way to reach non English speaking population. They produce DVDs for handout. Reaching out to students at school was mentioned as well. **We agreed that holding a public forum lead by CAER and working with the Steele County Safety Council would be a good way to disseminate information. We will need to arrange a speaker and venue, possibly Holiday Inn, and provide a meal as well.**

## **Steele County Emergency Manager**

Mike shared that railroads put out information to the city about what is being hauled through the city. Crude oil is not being hauled in large amounts here. Ethanol is more of a concern.

Mike explained the new active shooter protocol called ECHO. Law enforcement and first responders go in once the shooter is pinned down to extricate victims quickly in order to save more lives. At present training the trainers is taking place.

### **Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

**Next meeting is Jan 21, 2015 at 6:30 pm in Medford at the city hall.**