Camp Knutson Volunteers

Fall Meeting

August 29, 2019

10-12 noon

Kate called the meeting to order at 10:17am.

1. As exiting president of the Volunteers, Kate expressed her feeling of gratitude on many levels. She has seen more and more great things continue to happen here at Camp K. Kate has worked in pretty much every capacity at Camp and feels she has now come full circle as she leaves her president position. She thanked her Board and enjoyed working with the group all year.

Kate introduced the current Board members: VP- Jeanine Acker, Secretary- Laurie Ridgley, Treasurer- Mardy Brodil, Marketing Chair- Marilyn Schoeneman (not present), and past president, Lori Nelson.

Ex-officio members of the board are: Membership Chair- Mary Nielsen, and Volunteer Coordinator- Ginny Hersey.

Jared Griffin- Camp Knutson Director:

This time of the year is bittersweet. It’s tough saying good-bye to all the campers and now our counselors as well. There will be a few extra weekend retreats at Camp this year, the first one is the last weekend in August and is a Men’s Retreat. One of the men that arrived remarked to Jared, “It feels so good to be home again”. This is the sense that so many returning campers have when they come back to Camp K. We had over 1200 campers this summer. He expressed a huge “THANK YOU” to all the volunteers that facilitated the activities that help make Camp memorable.

Caitlin Malin- Program Director:

Caitlin shared how much she appreciates seeing the smiley faces of all the volunteers. The volunteers always show up for their activity and bring such a positive energy to the campers. The counselors this year were very educated group: all college graduates, one with speech and pathology training and all had many life experiences to bring to Camp and share with the campers and each other. Caitlin shared a couple of stories of campers that showed how the children’s confidence grows at Camp.

1. Stories from volunteer experiences this past summer were shared with the group. All stories convey the fun and love shared with the kids.
2. Nominating/Election Committee- Lori Nelson (Chair), Jeanine Acker, Ginny Hersey, Bonnie Benson, Carolyn Forney.

Each Board position and ex-officio position was brought to the membership for voting. When voting was complete, motions approved and accepted, the new Board of Camp Knutson Volunteers is as follows:

**President- Bonnie Benson**

**Vice-President-Mary Nielsen**

**Secretary- Laurie Ridgley**

**Treasurer- Mardy Brodil**

**Marketing- Ronda Morin**

**Website- Jean Jones**

**Membership Lynn Thurk**

**Volunteer Coordinator- Ginny Hersey**

1. Secretary Report- Minutes from the May 30 Spring Meeting were posted on the website for review. Membership voted to accept the minutes, with motion approval from Mary Nielsen and Jean Jones.
2. Treasurer Report- Mardy outlined fund raiser earnings and expenses. A full report is available on our website.
3. Committee Chair Reports-
* Night Under the Stars- Jeanine Acker- The weather was perfect for this year’s event, Luau at the Lake. NUTS was very successful with a record number attending and a record of funds raised. The monies raised this year will go toward “camperships”, which defray the cost of attending camp for the kids and their families. Jeanine will be the Chair of this fabulous event in 2020 and is looking for a co-chair to help her out. Anyone with event planning experience would be ideal. **The first meeting for the 2020 NUTS is Wednesday, September 11, 2019, at 2pm at Camp K.**
* Sundae Funday-Lori Nelson- This event continues to be very successful both for the Camp and for those attending. Future campers and their families attend to allay fears of coming to camp, and this has proven to be a wonderful opportunity for both the child and the parents. Next year the event will NOT be on Memorial Day weekend due to some calendar conflicts**. Next year’s date is May 31, 2020.** Lori will chair this event again but is looking for a few others to help her.
* Quilt Auction- A heartfelt “thank you” was expressed to the chairs of this event for the past 33 years, Marie Fischer and Kathy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is a very popular event and Marie and Kathy have given thousands of hours to Camp Knutson through this auction. Marie and Kathy have decided to step down from their role, and the **new chairs of the Quilt Auction are Cindy Melsby, Beth McConville, and Penny Bryce.**
* Membership/ Volunteer Coordinator: Mary Nielsen and Ginny Hersey worked very closely together over the year to bring us quite possibly the most accurate membership list our volunteer group has ever had! Ginny reported:

 There were 105 different volunteers actually volunteering 1 or more times.

 30% of on-Camp volunteering was done by our 35 new volunteers

 There were 312 opportunities to volunteer at Camp this summer not counting

 gardening, which was a total of 350 hours.

 861 hours were volunteered at Camp, not including any events, maintenance or

 gardening.

 Thank you to Caitlin and Jean for the wonderful new website they built for Camp K

 And to Mary for organizing and maintaining our roster.

 Mary reported:

 We have 147 active members

 We have 110 families

 37 members were new in 2019, plus 3 brand new volunteers joined today!!

 21 inactive members that receive emails to stay in touch with the Camp K

 Volunteer group.

 Our volunteer organization is unusual. As Ginny and Mary talk with others, the participation

 we see is not the norm for volunteer groups. Many volunteer groups are having great

 difficulty gaining members and a board. Our mission is very appealing to many

 as it is devoted to children.

 Milestone Anniversaries for volunteers participating for 15+ and 10+ years were

 recognized.

1. Survey- The Board feels that gathering the information on the survey every year is a valuable tool for improving our experiences for our volunteers. Jean Jones set this survey up on our web site**. Please participate by September 20.** A paper copy can be obtained from either Caitlin or Jean. Participation was at 60% last year, let’s try to beat that!
2. Camp Knutson Volunteers Recipe Books were given out to our newest volunteers.
3. Kate then introduced Bonnie Benson as our new president.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm and a luncheon was enjoyed by all!

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Ridgley- Secretary, Camp Knutson Volunteers