

**WHO General Meeting
February 26, 2024
Sun City Ballroom**

President Terry Fierle opened the general meeting at 1:30 p.m. She informed everyone that there would be a brief social time prior to the March 25th general meeting, starting at 1:00, that would include salad and desserts. This social opportunity would also be happening during the April and August general meetings. This was based on the early availability of the ballroom. All are invited to attend, if they are interested.

Terry also encouraged members to stop at the Outreach Table to explore the different volunteer opportunities. She thanked everyone for bringing so many products for Hope House drive.

Terry advised the membership that Margaret McNinch, Judy Madsen, Robin Stewart had agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee for the next WHO officer election. The nominations will open in July. Vice President Maria Tolleson has thrown her hat into the ring for president; however, all of the other offices are open. The voting will take place in September and the officers will assume their positions in January.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Maria Tolleson greeted everyone and announced we had a guest that she would like for us to meet. She introduced Bridget Cooley, the new director for the NEST. Bridget gladly reminded everyone that the Next provides a place to land for those who are homeless in the Georgetown Independent School District. She explained some of the volunteer opportunities which you can read about on the WHO website, thanks to Judy Madsen.

Vice President Maria Tolleson introduced our speaker for the day, Erland Schultze of Hope House of Liberty Hill. After thanking WHO for the opportunity to speak, he provided a touching presentation of Hope House and its mission. Hope House is a long-term home, with 24-hour supervision and living assistance for the most profoundly disabled children so that they can live in a caring environment with the love and respect they need and deserve. Hope House is one of the few long-term homes in the state of Texas and Williamson County. They receive the residents as children and keep them for the rest of their lives. Most of the residents are from Texas but, for the most part, the parents are not involved. A family environment is provided and they celebrate all of the holidays and birthdays. Out of 38 residents, only one boy has the ability to speak.

The State of Texas pays about 80% of the budget. Through grace, Hope House is what it is today due to donations. Grants have brought them up to a level of pay that is competitive and the retention rate is amazing. They do not have volunteer opportunities at this time due to the high level of disability, but, if a WHO member would like to do some gardening, bake cookies, etc., they are welcome. Also, there is an Amazon wish list on their website. Gently used clothing is also accepted.

Mr. Schultze graciously accepted a \$500 donation from Maria.

Maria advised that there were a few motions on which the membership needed to vote:

1. The WHO Program Committee is recommending raising the monthly donation amount to \$750. The board has approved this so the motion is being proposed to the membership. Kathy Davis seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.
2. On behalf of the Program Committee and the Board, Maria moved to supplement the Hope House Donation by \$250 during the Spring Giveaway. Anne Marshall seconded the motion which passed.
3. On behalf of the Program Committee and the board, Maria moved to approve a \$750 donation to the Wilco Blue Star Mothers at the March general meeting. Gladys Jeffries seconded the motion which passed.

Maria advised that the next non-profit "tour" would be on March 20. As there is no official site for this non-profit, we shall be having lunch with Laura McClain, President of Wilco Blue Star Mothers. Mina Doshier is the coordinator and we shall gather at the Activities Center to carpool at 10:45.

Maria reminded members of the fundraiser in October. It is a car show and there will be crafts and baked goods available for purchase in the ballroom. All of these items will be made and donated by WHO members. There will also be demonstrations by Hounds for Heroes (recipients of the fundraiser).

Karen Sheppard explained her craft projects for members, if interested. There will be two sessions. Those wanting to participate should contact her.

President's Report

Terry advised that Mary Orsak and Pam Gardner were heading up the membership/mentor committee. The new member committee exists of Barbara Kjos, Ruth Stigall, Stacy Brown, and Debra Gates. These committees will be focused on helping new members feel welcome and a part of WHO. There will be a new member gathering each quarter. The next will be held on March 18, 1:00 at Ruth's home.

Terry thanked Barbara Kjos for the new member packets.

Terry reminded members that "Gals About Town" was still active and an option for socializing with other members. Judy Blakely is heading up this group and is starting a new list so those interested were encouraged to sign up after the meeting. There will be a shopping trip in Liberty Hills on March 2 and happy hour at Alma's on April 5, 4-5 p.m. Confirm with Judy (jblakely7377@gmail.com) if you are interested. Diane Bartulevicz coordinates the walking around Sun City. Contact her at diane.bartulevicz@gmail.com.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Marilynn Rawnsley moved that the minutes from the January General Meeting be approved as written. Carrie Marshal seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ramona Thomas discussed the difference between dues and donations. Dues are required for membership and donations are optional but very welcome. Through our donations, we are able contribute more to our non-profits. Last year we raised \$16,000 of which 100% must be given to Williamson County non-profits. She then explained 3rd party fundraising. Monies raised do not go through our treasury. We are

helping another non-profit with their fundraisers and the monies go straight to their treasuries. We are simply the “worker bees”. Maria explained the due diligence that goes into identifying our non-profits. We have guidelines and they are also visited.

Ramona presented the financial statement.

Balance February 12, 2024		<u>\$7,654.57</u>
Contributions from Members:		
Meetings and Mail In	\$1,445.00	
Online Dues	\$1,060.00	
Subtotal of Contributions		\$2,505.00
Expenses:		
Less Donations to Non-Profits:		
Hope House	-\$250.00	
Wilco Blue Star Mothers	-\$750.00	
Subtotal of Donations to Non-Profits		-\$1,000.00
Balance March 11, 2024		<u>\$9,159.57</u>
Petty Cash Balance	\$231.68	

Ramona moved that the Treasurer’s Report be approved as presented.

Kathy Davis seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Old and New Business

The door prizes were distributed and enjoyed!

Adjournment

Terry adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilynn Rawnsley, Secretary