

Women Helping Others
General Meeting
October 23, 2023

President Terry Fierle called the meeting to order at 1:30 by welcoming those present and introducing Program Hospitality Chair Joan Douglas. Joan thanked those who came in costume in reference to Simple Sparrow Farm, our October non-profit. After taking an applause vote, Gayle Rattray and Nancy Wiedeman were declared the winners. Terry thanked Joan for her "fun efforts". Following the costume event, the ice breaker questions were addressed and enjoyed.

Membership Chair Barbara Kjos addressed new members by inviting them to talk to her about any questions they may have about WHO and to obtain a new member packet from her. As of this meeting, WHO had 359 members. A mentor program for new members will be started in January.

Terry reminded members that the next general meeting would be on November 13, a week early due to Thanksgiving.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Marilyn Rawsley moved that the minutes of September general meeting be approved as printed. Anne Marshall seconded the motion. There being no discussion, the vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report

Balance per board meeting September 11, 2023		\$ 2,977.57
Contributions from members:		
Meetings and Mail in	\$ 410.00	
Online dues	\$ 20.00	
Subtotal of Contributions		\$ 430.00
Expenses:		
Donations to Non-Profits		
Simple Sparrow Farm	\$ 500.00	
Subtotal of donations		\$ 500.00
Balance October 9, 2023 (board meeting)		\$ 2,907.57
Petty Cash Balance	\$ 231.68	

Treasurer Ramona reviewed the financial statement and moved that it be approved as presented. There was no discussion. Kathy Davis seconded the motion which passed.

Vice President's Report

Vice President Maria Tolleson reminded members that we shall be hearing about every aspect of WHO's participation in the Holiday Day Meals event at the next general meeting.

Maria introduced Jamie Tanner, founder of Simple Sparrow Care Farm. Jamie explained that the care farm addresses the growing field of "traumathology" - how trauma effects a person's mind and body. Simple Sparrow was her hobby farm to start. Through the gardens, land, and animals, she learned how to better nurture her own children about caring for themselves and others. After observing its effect on Jamie and her family, a friend suggested that the farm be used to help other traumatized members of the community. She began to explore how to use animals beyond horses for this purpose. She demonstrated a method for observing reactions by presenting a snake and a rabbit to the membership.

Jamie was asked how she manages client referrals. She explained that mental health professionals learn how to use the care farm and provide their own clients. Trauma is the basis of each case.

There are volunteer opportunities on their website, www.simplesparrow.farm.

Maria presented Jamie with a check for \$500 to be used in their general fund. Jamie graciously accepted the check and thanked WHO members for their generosity.

Maria introduced WHO member Carrie Marshall and Sheryl Coy, founders of Good Neighbor GTX. Carrie explained the purpose of the newly founded non-profit. This non-profit exists to support children of low-income and in-crisis families in the Georgetown, TX area. They do this by providing the basic necessities of clothing and essential living items FREE of charge. For more information, visit their website gngtxinfo@gmail.com. Members were very supportive and excited about this new non-profit.

Maria informed members that the speakers for 2024 would be attending the January 2024 meeting.

Old and New Business

Pat Schuerer, organizer of the toiletries drive for the Holiday Meals event, reminded everyone of what was needed – shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and deodorant. Enough soap has been collected. The deadline for donating is November 10. These items will be packed into gallon bags at the November general meeting. The goal is to assemble 300 bags. The drop-off homes are listed on the WHO website. She thanked the ladies who are providing this service.

Cookies for the event will be packaged on December 23 at 9:30 at the Atrium.

The door prizes were given out amid the usual excitement. Donors were thanked for their generosity.

Adjournment

Terry adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilynn Rawnsley, Secretary