

Take Back the Night Minutes

February 2, 2010 Meeting

Present: April Balzhizer, Denise Payton, Laurie Knick, Mardi Wunderlich, Sr. Alberta Marie Papesh, Cherry Powell, Marsh Lega, Carolyn Khan, Jean Mandeville, Kathy Craven, Jodi Wartenberg, Carrie Jo Claussen, Lynette Shea

President April Balzhizer called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Denise Payton moved to accept the December meeting minutes and it was seconded by Jodi Wartenberg.

With a few new (newer) members, it was decided we should all introduce ourselves to help put a name with a face (especially for the new secretary!)

April reported that Joy Alwan the treasurer could not attend this meeting, but did report a balance of \$6,249.00. Carolyn K. asked for Joy's contact information so she can get at a check for \$125.00 to cover the calendars from the City of Crest Hill. They have featured Take Back the Night with pictures and information for October. Lynette said she can e-mail her the contact information in the morning.

April asked if the site for this year's event had chosen. Jodi reported that it will again be at Bi-Centennial Park and that Glen M. would be making the calls and arrangements. The date was discussed and we will wait to see if the park is available either Thursday October 7th or 14th, 2010.

There was no report for Sub-Committee – School Programs.

Scholarship committee report was given by Mardi. They have met twice and are in the process of drafting the application and developing the criteria. They will e-mail it to the members as they get closer to a final product. They have been discussing eligibility, how the applications will be picked up and where. It was decided that this will not be open to high schools, applications will be picked up at the following agencies: Lambs Fold, Bridges to a New Day and Ground Works. They have discussed having preferences and the committee would prefer it go to a survivor of domestic violence who is trying to rebuild their life. Financial need will also be taken into consideration. The committee wants to be very subjective in awarding the scholarships. They will plan on meeting again and having something ready for the next meeting.

Carrie Jo reported on the book of survivor stories. She has suggested it be used as a fundraiser. Some of the questions raised were, "Who will do the interviews, who will get the releases"? Cherry said she has verbal permission and stories from the women she spoke to last year to allow the stories to be printed. After much discussion, it was decided to start building a "library" of stories and maybe next year, have enough to be able to choose the best for a book. Other suggestions included, adding poetry written by survivors, artwork, illustrations etc. Jean is going to look for a release or draft a new one. It is a work in progress!

Our website is still being managed by Lisa Las who does a fabulous job. The website looks great!

Thoughts then were directed to speaker ideas for our event. Ideas for topics were then throw out for discussion. They were: trafficking, teenagers' athletes, Power-police, schools, training outreach.

Marsha suggested dating violence. She said every 4 years there are a new group of teenagers in the schools and it would be a great idea to target that audience again. Jodi asked if we were talking dating violence or across the board violence. Carolyn said dating violence should maybe directed, especially to freshman girls who are beginning to date. Denise said she sees a lot of young girls at the Child Advocacy Center.

Mardi said she had seen an interesting presentation at Guardian Angel where two prostitutes gave a talk on their lives and violence. Denise suggested we get a committee together to come up with a list of topics. They are Jodi K., April B., Kathy C., and Cherry P.

Denise also said over the years she has taken the various speakers around to the different schools and there are always girls that come to them after the talk to ask if they can talk to them about their experiences with violence.

Kathy said she knew the Black Bar Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha was sponsoring a teen summit in Bolingbrook on March 6, 2010 to speak to girls about teen violence and dating. She suggested if we could get a survivor to speak, it would make a greater impact on these impressive teen girls. She will try to get more information on this event that we may be able to use.

Jodi said the school speaker doesn't have to be the same speaker, that we have a committee for finding speakers for school outreach. Carolyn cautioned that whatever is done we should make sure there is an advocate in the room and available during these presentation, for other victims. The committee will meet and discuss the possibilities.

The memorial for our event in October was discussed and Jodi said Sandy C. was stepping down from that committee and asked that someone else take it over. Carolyn and Sister Albert Marie volunteered.

At this time, Cherry asked to step down as co-chair for this year with April. She said April is doing a great job. April was fine with this as long as she still could count on the rest of us to help when she needed it. Everyone told her to call them if she needed anything!

April asked if all of us had seen the e-mail from the Girl Scout troop, volunteering their help. Marsha suggested they help put up posters and help with the drive for the 2 shelters at this year's event. Carrie Jo will get in touch with them.

Lora M. had submitted a letter to the editor of the Herald News complaining that they are not taking domestic violence very seriously, particularly with the seemingly humorous headlines they are printing on their articles on domestic violence situations. It was a very good straight-forward article. HN said it was too big to print so Lora is re-writing it for submission to them. Members, keep your eyes open this is not a joke!

For the October event, Marsha is thinking t-shirts, more fashioned for women this year, maybe the brown & pink. She will start looking into it.

Denise thanked everyone on behalf of the Children's Advocacy Center for the check they received from us. Carolyn was unsure if Bridges had gotten the check and will look into it.

Next month April cannot attend this meeting so it was suggested the committee's meet on their own and have reports ready for April. The next meeting will then be Tuesday April 6, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. here at the Township building.

Jodi moved the meeting be adjourned, second by Carolyn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lynette Shea