

EMT Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2004
Merrimack County Office in Boscawen

Present in Boscawen: Paul Bonaparte-Krogh, Wendy Brock, Deb Cheever, Marilyn Sullivan, Karen Blass, Peter Pohl, Bob Edmonds, Don Black, Lauren Bressett, Amy Ouellette, Nancy Berry, Jim Grady and Nancy Franz (at noon). By PicTel: John Pike, Juli Brussell, David Foote and Holly Young. Excused were: Nory Parr, Sam Stoddard, Margaret Hagen, Dan Reidy and Charlene Baxter.

Paul facilitated the meeting after introductory remarks announcing changes in COA role in Carroll County. Peter will step down after the budget process and Tina Savage and Ann Hamilton will step in on Jan 1st, 2005 to assume parts of the duties. In Sullivan County, Nancy Berry will step down and Seth Wilner and Gail Kennedy will share the role 50/50 as of Jan 1st, 2005

Nancy Berry made a presentation to present Lauren Bressett with a national 4-H award she picked up on her behalf at the National 4-H Agent Association Conference month.

County reports focused on recent Delegation Meetings and contact with Legislators and County Commissioners.

- Rockingham reported a very successful new event, a reception held at 9am before the delegation orientation meeting on Wed. 45 legislators attended and informally met staff and AC members and had refreshment while viewing displays. Event lasted an hour till the meeting at 10 am.

- Merrimack had its traditional lunch presented by the AC to the delegation members after their meeting. It was very successful. Legislators lingered and talked with staff and AC members for an hour. A slide show of CE activities played in the background.

- Strafford County had its traditional light supper at their conference room before the Delegation meeting. It was well attended and Don Black and his staff sang a few songs including one written by Don about CE.

In addition to those reports, counties reported on budget deliberations so far.

- Strafford is seeking an additional \$9,000 this year for the 4-H position.
- Rockingham has a meeting on Friday to discuss with the Commissioners and additional 5.3% for the Ag position.
- Merrimack is asking for a 7.5% increase overall.
- Cheshire budget is being forwarded as requested, as is Carroll County.
- Belknap County has received a 6.5% cut from the Commissioners till other resources come forth to match any contribution from the county for the F&CR position.
- Coös budget has been forwarded as requested.
- Sullivan, Hillsborough and Grafton are just starting the process for a July1 budget.

Budget Activity:

A copy of each counties budget request was distributed so all present had a complete set. The group broke into three small groups to look over the budgets and discuss any interesting observations and comments on the overall presentation and how understandable it was to the average AC member.

Group reported back it was very interesting to see what and how counties reported. Travel was compared to the size of the county, and in most cases, items were lumped together for the final presentation to make it easier to understand.

Other topics covered included:

- A quick update on County Conversations.
- A discussion about the need to develop supporters for mobilizing the grass roots when needed. Each county got a very confidential list of volunteers serving in their county.
- Handed out a sheet of behavior-based interview questions as the HR topic of the day.
- Discussed the Web page updates that were going on.
- Reviewed a note from Holly that all Enclosure slips are now on the web to down load. It was requested to have Word format so notes could be typed in on the slip.
- David reported on the GSDLN and the hope that prices will come down.
- Reminders to all to have staff fill out the recognition section on the web for the new awards.

After lunch, Nancy conducted a workshop on improving staff meetings. Discussed what makes a meeting successful and what does not. She had a hand out.

Future training for staff on team building was discussed for January. Discussed working as an interdisciplinary team, motivators and bringing the loners into the group.

Discussed ways to improve AC training in the future. Ideas included:

- Use time at county meetings and build it into the meeting.
- Do civil rights training.
- Form an outline of the topic covered in the handbook for new members. Pick out key elements.
- Offer tours to campus as a special event and other special tours.
- Do something on NH politics - what does everyone need to know.

Dates of next years 2005 meetings were set.

EMT

March 3
June 8
Sept 29
Dec 15

State AC meetings

Jan or Feb not certain yet
April 21
Oct 27