

Minutes

Kappa Chapter's November 2012 Meeting

November 13, 2012

Twenty-two members of Kappa Chapter and two special guests met Tuesday evening, November 13, 2012 at the Third Presbyterian Church in Staunton for a dinner meeting.

Anne opened the meeting. The collect was read and the response was sung. A delicious dinner was served by the Ladies of the Third Presbyterian Church.

Barbara Sheffield who volunteers with Ride with Pride introduced our guests and speakers for the evening program, Debbie Winters and Bernie Beckin. Debbie is the founder and director of Ride with Pride Therapeutic Horsemanship Program. Bernie is the coordinator of Volunteers with the program.

Debbie told us briefly about her beginning with horse ownership and how it was the carrot to keep her grades up in school. She said horses only care if you treat them with respect and not who you are. They mirror the emotions of the riders. Ride with Pride works with the riders and horses to get them to become a team. An interesting fact Debbie presented was that humans process 90% of information with their eyes, while horses process 90% of information with their "gut feeling".

Ride with Prides works with children and adults with special needs to help them develop trust with their horse. She told a number of stories about riders and horses developing special bonds with each other. Individuals, who have difficulties dealing with and connecting to other people, learn to deal with their horse on a personal basis and this helps them to learn how to get along with others and to develop confidence in their abilities. They provide individual and group lessons and have special activities throughout the year for their riders of different levels.

Ride with Pride is part of the national organization. (The professional Association of Therapeutic Riding International) There are now about 1,000 centers in the United States.

Debbie and Bernie both stated that volunteers are needed and are an essential part of their program. The riders could not accomplish all that they do without the assistance of the volunteers.

After the dinner and program, Anne opened the business portion of our meeting. She recognized Elaine Almarode as one of the recipients of this year's Dawbarn Award. She also mentioned for Care and Concerns a number of members who had medical concerns.

Treasurer Repot: Bobbi presented the Treasurer's Report. A few paper copies were available for members to look at.

The minutes for the October meeting had been sent electronically. Paper copies of the October minutes were available. Anne asked for any changes. The minutes were accepted as written.

Membership: Membership cards were available at the meeting for pick up. Membership voted on and approved for membership in Kappa Chapter, Cyndy Ward. She was the only prospective member brought up for membership. A number of members are not renewing their membership this year due to family, medical or work related situations. They will be kept as Kappa Friends and will continue to receive the chapter newsletter.

Legislative: Bea gave an update on the General Assembly. January 29, 2013 is DKG day during Legislative Week in Richmond. VEA had a pre-legislative workshop in October to look at legislative priorities. Continuing Contract for teachers continues to be a major concern. Some local school boards have endorsed a resolution in support of Continuing Contracts. Bea asked members to talk to local school board members to support this resolution. Additional information can be found on the VEA website.

New Business: Anne brought up our chapter's Strategic Action Plan and said that she would e-mail information to members.

Canned fruit was collected and will be given to Bea's church food pantry.

Anne concluded the meeting by reading a selection: Harvest of Thoughts.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Coffey
Recording Secretary