

HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response

President's Report

April 29, 2007

Purpose

This report is mandated by the bylaws for the purpose of updating the board of directors with the activities of the president and organization.

Introduction:

This past quarter in HOPE AACR has been one of major change. Unfortunately, Catherine needed to step down as president so she could care for her mother. I encourage all of you to keep Catherine and her mom in your thoughts and prayers. As a comfort organization, it's important to remember our members may sometime need us too.

In March you chose me to lead HOPE as president. I am truly humbled by your choice and I have committed the next two years to serve you, the membership, and the people we comfort. As I have found out, there is much work to be done. We have already done much, but we have many more important issues to settle as HOPE continues to serve people in need.

Recent Activities of HOPE

Virginia Tech Callout - Without a doubt, the most significant event in the past quarter has been the callout EUS teams made to at the campus at Virginia Tech. These extraordinary teams walked into a very difficult and tragic situation, and did what they've been trained to do, provide comfort and encouragement to so many people in need. The callout report compiled by Jill is quite moving. I am amazed how the teams were able to be there for so many people. These EUS teams are commended for their service on behalf of all HOPE teams.

New Permanent Address and Toll-Free Phone Number – A permanent address was established. This will save a lot of money and effort in changing brochures, business cards, and such when the president changes. As you know the corporate address used to change with the president. This will no longer be required. Also, you voted to establish a forwarding toll-free phone number. This will also help save some money. We have not setup the number yet, but should be able to do so this coming week.

New Website Release is imminent – The new website will hopefully be launched May 1, 2007. The domain transfers have been initiated and should be complete within 5 days or less from last Friday. We still have a lot of work to do on this project, but we've made excellent progress.

Annual Meeting is Set – The annual meeting time and place has been set for June 9 & 10 in Bozeman Montana. Many thanks to the Bozeman teams for making this happen!!

HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response

Issues We Are Facing

Creating a new region - An important issue we will be discussing during our upcoming BOD meeting is that of creating a fourth region. In order to grow we need to look for ways to encourage people to join us and commit to the work we do. Creating a new region will encourage those teams we now have in place and will hopefully attract more teams.

Board Vacancies – As you know we now have two vacancies on the board. One of the seats was vacated by Char Palmer and the other was vacated recently by Sherry Arndt. This issue will be discussed during our upcoming meeting. I am recommending the board eliminates the Corresponding Secretary for now. We can reinstate this position if necessary.

Membership Renewals – We've experience very slow membership renewals this year. The reason is not clear, but we are working on correcting the problem. We need to select a membership chair and get that person up to speed. Many thanks to Amy, Jill, and Georgia for their efforts in getting the renewals finished! Hopefully, next year will be smoother and be done on time. (January 31, 2008)

Completing Bylaws Project – The bylaws committee has added a new member, Bill Hatherley. With the addition of Bill, new life has been added to the committee and we are hoping to have more recommendations ready for the full board by the June meeting.

Conclusion

As you can see there is much work to be done. I am grateful for all each one of you does for HOPE and the people we are dedicated to serve. Your volunteerism is highly commendable and is very much appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Valentine
President
HOPE AACR