

**PIONEERS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES  
SMURTHWAITE HOUSE/WEBEX**

*Thursday, March 7th, 2024*

**PCA Board Members present:**

**Smurthwaite House**

Patty Gault, President  
Cindy Lee, Vice President

Ed Dobbins, Historian

Debe Branning

Kim Kasper

Donna Carr

Mark Lamm

Vicki Galli

Sterling Foster

**PCA Advisory Board Members present:**

Margy Parisella

**PCA Advisory Board Members absent:**

Pamela Stewart

Marshall Shore

Ryan Vander Ark

Judy Smith

**PCA Members present:**

**Smurthwaite House**

Denise Foster

Tom Yount

**On the Phone**

Lezlee Alexander

**Discussion/Action**

**Call to order:** President Patty Gault called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Approval of February 1st, 2024 Minutes:** Minutes accepted as presented to the Board.

**Treasurers Report:** Val Wilson gave treasurer's report:

as of February 1<sup>st</sup> - Beginning Balance - \$31,015.68

as of February 29<sup>th</sup>- Ending Balance - \$30,818.96

Val will be reviewing the books on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, around 10 am. Anyone is welcome to help.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Spirits of the West Review:** held Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 3:30 – 5:30 pm

33 Visitors, 10 Reenactors, 19 Volunteers

Tickets sold @\$20 Adult, \$10 Child = \$650.00

Cookies/Candy sold: = \$92.00

Donation: = \$ 8.00

**TOTAL FOR GMP = \$750.00**

Total Reenactors & Volunteer hours for event = 341

341 x \$31.80 = \$10,843.80 (per independent Sector)

**Valentine Make & Take/Open House Review:** held Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024, from 10 am – 1 pm.

101 Valentine cards were made for the Veterans by guests and volunteers. They were delivered in person by several volunteers to the Veterans Home in Prescott AZ before February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Jacob Waltz Update:**

The monument needs to be near a walkway designed for ADA. A few redundant lines had been removed from the text and the finished monument turned out very nice. Concerns about cars crashing through the fence near Jacob's gravesite led to talk about insurance coverage which we do have. The JW committee is looking to install the monument at the end of March. They are sending out SAVE the DATE cards for a small ceremony to be held on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Rack cards will be ordered after a photo of the new monument has been taken to use on them.

### **PMMP Update:**

Ed Dobbins is working on the 5<sup>th</sup> and final version of the history of PMMP. He and Lezlee Alexander are working on placement of pictures and hope to get it to the printers next week. It will be about 50 pages. They plan to start with 100 copies to be sold. Various places are being thought of to possibly sell copies such as city museums.

### **DAR CLEANUP:**

The Piestewa Peak & Maricopa Chapters of the DAR came to the cemetery on March 2<sup>nd</sup> for a Day of Service. Judy Smith, one of our Advisory Board members, along with her husband Mike & members of her DAR Chapter & their families, did a cleanup in Porter Cemetery & the walkway to the cenotaph garden. They worked for a couple of hours clearing weeds and debris. They made a noticeable difference.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

The wires that supply our internet were cut during a recent burglary at the Smurthwaite House. Due to issues, we have with the internet being out Lezlee had to guess what the membership total is. Her guess is 76 that are posted.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** will be an Open House.

**March 29<sup>th</sup>** is an upcoming tour by the Maricopa Historical Society. It is on a Friday.

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** will be a group cleanup in Travis Manion's memory. He is a fallen hero who died in 2007 in Iraq. He was a proud Marine who for his actions received the Silver Star & the Bronze Star with Valor. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. The group will also put up a military marker that we have not had installed yet.

**May 4<sup>th</sup>** is Mother's Day Brooch making Fundraiser.

**May 27<sup>th</sup>** Memorial Day will be just an Open House. The Masons will put out flags in the Mason Cemetery.

### **Monthly Email Blasts**

Lezlee does an email blast once a month, usually the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week.

### **Smurthwaite Burglary – Alarm Procedures – Security**

Our priority is to get steel screens for the downstairs windows.

Everyone was given a 4-page step-by-step packet on how to operate the alarm system. It also includes the names and phone numbers of a city staff person to call if you are unable to set the alarm. All alarm calls will be directed initially to PCA Staff. They will determine if police should be called while talking to alarm room personnel.

### **Large Tours**

We need to change the amount we charge for tours. Believe the fees need to be upped. We would also need to change our prices on the website.

### **PCA Investment**

A four- page handout of volunteer hours from 2016 through 2023 showing the number of hours for each year and what they were valued at per hour. The total for those 8 years came to \$1,405,498!! The report also shares the events and fundraisers we hold throughout the year, mainly from September to the end of May. The total for these activities totaled \$53,000. Also listed were numerous funds/labor costs for projects and equipment the PCA has contributed to improve the facility and serve the public along with donations and grants we have received to put back into the facility. Every one of our volunteer hours is important!

### **Volunteer Hours Reminder**

Please send your hours to Denise.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:29 am.**

**Meeting with the City of Phoenix Parks & Recs at house on March 14th, 2024, 9:30 am.**

Respectfully submitted by Denise Foster