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The M.R. Foundation of Tennessee, Inc.

8485 Dulwich Road Cordova, Tennessee 38016-5186

a Knights of Columbus sponsored charity

servicing people with intellectual disabilities

Minutes from February 15, 2012 Teleconference Meeting

Members signed on to conference call, President King, Vice-President Mike Porter, Treasurer John Janicek, Secretary Bill Gunter, John Park, Bob Rounsefell, Jim Simpson, Jerry Headley, Jack McCusker, Dale Foust, Byron Nestler, Bob Johnson, Fred Laufenberg, and Andy Vrba. Excused were State Deputy Mike Wills, Bill Wicke, Hunter Nolen and Gino Marchetti.

President King opened the meeting at 6:05 pm with a prayer and gave his opening remarks about the conference call and how it would work. He also advised he had received an e-mail from Bill Wicke regarding the collections (Bill is filling in for Hunter during his absence) from the Councils. So far he had only received funds from 22 Councils. John then asked if all on the call had a copy of the October Meeting minutes he had e-mailed out. The response was yes, so he then asked if there were any corrections; none were stated, so he asked for and received approval as written.

John then asked about drives upcoming and for the Board members to contact their assigned Councils to get them moving and to turn their funds in as soon as possible. John said he had seen improved participation in the collections, and hadn't heard any negative remarks on what the Board is trying to do. Dale Foust advised that the Athens council is having trouble finding stores to solicit in front of (the Cleveland council is experiencing similar problems) and will be doing a fall drive. He also suggested that council's start looking at other ways to conduct drives other than with the Tootsie Rolls.

Several suggestions were made by Bob Rounsefell and Mike Porter, Bob suggesting the drives be conducted like in the earlier times, September and October, and Mike promoting the idea of setting a time for the entire state. Mike would place in each of the three diocesan papers an ad that stated the Knights of Columbus would be conducting its annual drive on a specific weekend and to watch for and support them. Fred Laufenberg stated that the Crossville council held their drive the last week of July and the second week of August and was able to raise \$11,000 plus an additional grant of \$1,000 from Wal-Mart.

A Friday night dessert get-together at the State Convention was discussed and will be headed up by Byron Nestler and Mike Porter. This event will take place from 8:00 – 10:00 pm (location tbd) and will serve as a basic information night where council members and their spouses can meet with Foundation board members and discuss ways to raise funds, to conduct drives, to remit net proceeds, and to request distribution of 50% of these proceeds that is held for return to approved 501(c)(3) organizations that councils choose to support.

John Janicek provided December 31, 2011 Balance Sheets and Undistributed Council Fund Balances. All funds are in good shape and will be ready for the Audit. John stated that approximately 89% of all income goes to our clients; we (the Foundation) use about 11% of our total income for expenses,

much lower than many other 501(c)(3) organizations, a tribute to prudent asset management. John was advised he needed to get our new councils added onto his list, since several were missing.

Committee Reports were next on the agenda, with Vehicle Grants first. Bob Johnson, Vehicle Grant Chairman, stated he had one request:

- VG-0112, \$9,873.00 submitted by Crossville Council 8152 for Hilltoppers, Inc. (originally submitted in October and approved at that time for two vehicles and \$6,250.00). This new request added a third vehicle to the original grant and sought our matching portion of 10%. Grant Approved.

Grants and Matching Grants were next with Jim Simpson, Grant Chairman, deferring to John King to read them:

- MG1-12, \$837.22 submitted by Winchester Council 3431 for the Cowan Home. Grant Approved.
- MG2-12, \$545.80 submitted by Whitehaven Council 5062 the Memphis Home. Grant Approved
- G3-12, \$2,500.00 submitted by Ascension Council 10327 for Autism Solution Center, Inc. This Grant request was tabled until additional information could be provided.
- G4-12, \$5,965.00 submitted by Crossville Council 8152 for Hilltoppers, Inc. for building repairs on 6 units. Grant Approved.
- G5-12, \$ 25,000.00 submitted by Harriman Council 8273 for Michael Dunn Center, for remodeling and repairing bathrooms to make them ADA compliant. Grant Approved for \$5,000.00.
- G6-12, \$9,000.00 submitted by Sparta Council 14902 for Pacesetters, Inc., to upgrade electronics for record keeping. This Grant request was tabled until additional information could be provided.
- G7-12, \$4,537.00 submitted by West Knoxville Council 5207 for Sunshine Industries, to purchase two pieces of equipment for workers. Grant Approved.
- G8-12, \$1,850.00 submitted by Morristown Council 6730 K of C Home of Morristown, to supplement financial stress caused by two empty client slots at the Home. Grant Approved.
- G9-12, \$5,000.00 submitted by Elizabethton Council 10743 for Mountain Region Speech and Hearing Center to get sessions for intellectually disabled clients. Grant Approved.
- G10-12, \$ 12,773.00 submitted by Lenoir City Council 12633 for Advocate Center asking for equipment for abused children. The Center does not meet the Foundation's mission of assisting intellectually disabled clients. Grant Not Approved.

Jim Simpson stated that the proper procedures need to be followed on all Grant requests: if not received one month prior to a scheduled meeting, a grant request will not be read. All were in agreement with following this procedure.

President King asked if all had received the Mission Statement re-write from Gino. All said yes and after some discussion, approved as presented.

Report on MR Homes

Sumner Special Housing - Bob Johnson started us off, advised that all four homes are doing well, and that both the Hendersonville and Gallatin councils are beginning fund-raising for a fifth home that will be built in the spring of 2014.

K of C Home of Morristown - Andy Vrba advised they were again down two clients and were looking for replacements (one client recently passed away).

Cowan Home - Jerry Headley reported it is doing well.

Memphis Home - John King reported it is doing well and had a fence built, no other details.

There was no report on the homes in Newbern, Clarksville and Nashville.

A power point presentation from Byron Nestler was next and he began by asking if anyone could identify any of the home pictures as to where they are located, some didn't have any information. Byron mentioned he had made the presentation to several councils and it was well received. He will add our Mission Statement to the State Convention presentation and to future presentations and will also include outstanding (undistributed) council balances.

Under Open Discussion, President King advised that Chad Harrell had gone into a new business with several others to provide a Medical Card / Low Prescription Cost to those that might need this benefit. He wasn't sure on the total cost involved, but mentioned \$10.00 per month and if a council can sign up several members there would be about a \$2.00 credit.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Gallatin, Tennessee on April 14, 2012. President King will send out information as to hotel reservations and the address for the meeting. Bob Johnson has agreed to chair the setup with Hats, which runs the four Sumner Special Housing homes. A tour of the Gallatin home will take place after the meeting and will include a side trip to the workshop, where they employ about 200 clients with disabilities. Bob is also setting up a restaurant dinner for those who arrive on Friday evening.

President King asked what those on the teleconference thought and all agreed it was a good idea. Mike Porter then gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

John King, President

by Bill Gunter, Secretary

