



Meeting Notes for Service Organization Meeting

Date: January 4th, 2024

Time: 12 - 1 pm

Location: Franklin County Farm Bureau

- Jeannine Groll started the meeting. She allowed the room to introduce themselves and what their service organization is. Jeannine then went over our improved website and encouraged everyone attending to submit events on our website to our calendar. There were several in attendance that attested to how great this is on our website and it has proven useful already.
- Everyone was allowed to grab some food for lunch time, and while we ate, Jeannine wanted every attendee to go over their group focus, needs, and community events coming up or events that they hold in the community.
- Kris Beckstead volunteered to go first. She was there representing the Rodeo. She wanted to make sure everyone knew that the rodeo dates changed for this year - it will be held on August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. This change is due to where the week fell in respect to the days of the month. They start selling tickets the 1st Monday in May. They have approximately 20,000 in tickets sales. The rodeo appreciates the help that the City gives them every year. This year, they will be opening up 4 more food vendor spots. They love all the help that the Lions and Kiwanis give with their food stands. They will be looking for local vendors for the extra vendor spots. Kris requested any ideas or suggestions that anyone has for anything to improve the rodeo, as it is a huge show to put on every year. They were voted as the Best Big Rodeo for last year, by the cowboys.
- Next was the Community Center or Meals on Wheels. Their budget is reimbursed by the state, but only for a portion of it. The state reimburses \$3.20 per meal. So they run off of donations. They are required to feed everyone, even those that cannot pay - but they do ask for donations for every meal. A lot are not donating. For the Thanksgiving holiday, they did approximately 1,100 meals. During Covid, they received \$7.20 per meal; the reimbursement schedule has decreased dramatically. The cost of each meal is usually over \$10 for the community center to pay for. They also accept food donations. They can accept frozen foods, canned foods. They need help with coordinating their events so they do not conflict with other community

events. Starting in March or April, they will have their Navajo Tacos/ Scones. They need funds and donations. They serve lunch from 12 to 1 pm, but they will go on until 2 pm to make sure they serve everyone. Main contacts are Carol Parker or Bob Purser.

- Lance Zollinger was next, and he represents the Franklin County Farm Bureau. They get most of their funds from membership dues. Regular members are anyone that is a producer of agriculture products. They have scholarship funds for schools. They also have fundraising efforts for the scholarship funds. They work hard to promote Agriculture and to information share to the community. This organization has helped sponsor DYW in the past.
- Lance also represents Preston FFA and Alumni. They focus on fundraising and are a strong supporter in the schools. Kids can donate service to the organization. They mostly have their banquet event in the Fall.
- Caitlin Schmidt was there to represent the Distinguished Young Women. They are funded by contributions to scholarships. This program is for Junior year girls. They teach many qualities, such as public speaking, talent, and interviewing skills. They would love to have service opportunities with other agencies in the community - they have many girls that need to accrue service hours.
- Caitlin also represents Greater Opportunities. Their main event is the Valentine's Event. The Ballroom dancing group comes and they dance with the kids. It is a huge dance. They want this to be inclusive to everyone - so that the kids can network with good role models/ adults, and other kids. The parents can also network with other parents for support. This organization accepts private organizations.
- Kyley Buttars was there to represent the Franklin County Healthcare Foundation. They are separate from the Medical Center and would like to get out there to the community more. Kyley manages the community engagement team. They support FCMC and help promote a healthy lifestyle within the community. Funds are raised through their events. They offer annual scholarships for kids wanting to be in healthcare. September 15th through October 31st - any service organization can submit projects that they have that impact the community in positive ways, and they will receive a grant if they win. Examples of this are things like a mental health program with Priestley Mental Health, or a teacher that organizes a health event. The Foundation also helped organize the Turkey Trot last year, and raised over \$2,000.
- Susan Yardley was there to represent the Preston School Board. Graduation is scheduled for May 23rd, and May 24th for Franklin County High School. This one will

be held at 7 pm in the auditorium. March 18th - 22nd will be the High School Elections. The 3rd Wednesday of each month is the school board meeting. Another levee will be coming up for the school. Information for the levee will be given in the upcoming school board meetings. This year, there is a budget deficit of over \$330,000.

- Alexis Beckstead was there to represent the Oneida Stake Academy. The Harry Potter Festival was a huge event this past year. They are still trying to remodel the building for community needs. They currently use a lot of grants. They also can auction off gift cards that are donated to receive donations to the Academy. They also can use letters of support signed by community members to secure grants for funds.
- Connie Young was there to represent the Kiwanis. They have had reduced membership since Covid. They were responsible for fundraising efforts for the Preston Splash Pad. They also have scholarships at the high schools, which consist of 2 \$500 prizes. They would like to provide at all the schools. They provide lots of supplies for the Parks and Recreation departments for the city, such as new baseball bats, uniforms, etc. They have donated to the school break room for the teachers. They coordinated with the Elks Club to do Christmas Baskets this last year. They donate 100% of the budget for the High School Key Club. They are currently accepting donations for their burger booth at the Fairgrounds. They still need funds for Stove hoods and fire suppression for the booth. They will be hosting a ribbon cutting before the start of the rodeo, so they want to have this completed before that time.
- Neal Jorgenson was there to represent the Lions Club. He said their 4 main focuses are: Feeding the Hungry, Education, Environment, and Diabetes. They have also seen reduced membership in the past couple of years. They have donated \$117,000 to the community. These were raised from Rodeo efforts. They have paid for school lunches last year, and donated to the teachers. Their main events are:
 - The Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday before Easter. Need businesses to donate/ fill eggs, cash donations for large prizes, and need volunteers to host the hunt.
 - Rodeo Stand: need volunteers to cook, take orders, etc.
 - Night for Sight: need volunteers. Envision donates glasses. They help with surgeries and purchasing hearing aids. Last year, they donated \$7000. Their 1st priority of who they help are residents of Idaho. They need more golf teams and hole sponsors.
 - They also need more members. They would love to communicate with other organizations to point them where their services will help within the community. Their dues are about \$15 a month, but you can organize a branch club of 5 or more people, and set your own dues for the group. Neal had a

suggestion that we create a database of volunteers, for when volunteers are needed within the community. Brad Wall is the President, and a good point of contact.

- Robert Swainston was there to represent Franklin County. They will be having a open house on the new courthouse in the Spring.
- Brent Dodge was there to represent Preston City. He will and has been directing people and groups to the community calendar on our website, to submit their events for the community.
- Sean and Emma were there to represent the Bear River Heritage Center and BRAG. Their efforts are to preserve and promote the culture of the area, and the preservation of geological sites. BRAG is pro-growth. Growth for businesses. They want to set up a Napoleon Dynamite Festival. They can use this to propel visitors to the area. They want help in recruiting people to this festival. They also think it is important that we build an alliance with the Cache County Community. Emma went on to say that she works closely with the local tribes, but also wants to offer support to our area.
- Chris Groll was there to represent the Franklin County High Markers. They promote safety while navigating the great outdoors during snowmobiling and other activities. They offer scholarships for the area. He also was there to represent Groll's Gym and said that they have an event coming up that does donations to a local cause - this is the Triathlon/ Biathlon in the Springtime. They would like ideas for a local charity or cause for the donations to go to this year.
- In ending this meeting, we stated that we would like to set up a quarterly meetings for all of the service organizations to get together and collaborate with each other. More news to come.

Thank you on behalf of the Preston Area Chamber of Commerce Board.

Lance Zollinger, *President*

Brittney Smith, *Vice President*

Ashley Nate, *Secretary*

Jan Taylor, *Treasurer*

Bailey Beckstead, *Business & Professional Dev*

Jeannine Groll, *Service Groups Outreach*

Marcia Kunz, *Public Policy*

Stevie Emerson, *Marketing & Member Relations*

Krista Burns, *Social Media*

Janet Nalder, *Board Member*

Amber Almond, *Board Member*

Kris Beckstead, *Board Member*

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