

## Mountain Women Minutes

Friday, 10 February 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Marti Szczur at 10:30 a.m. with approximately 25 in attendance.

- The minutes were accepted as corrected and distributed.
- Sylvia Stafford and the Laurel Springs neighborhood were thanked for providing refreshments.
- Two new members were in attendance:
  - Sylvia Theriault, a new full-time resident on High Pasture, relocating from California. She has been a property owner for ten years.
  - Joyce Tate, just retired and a resident of Manassas, is here part-time on Wood Lily.
- The birthday list for February includes:  
Lois Conrad (7<sup>th</sup>), Ginny Morton (8<sup>th</sup>), Kathy Knowles (9<sup>th</sup>), Irma Graf (10<sup>th</sup>), Wilma Gormley (15<sup>th</sup>), Nanci Taylor (17<sup>h</sup>), Carolyn Wood (21<sup>s</sup>5), and Kathy Montgomery (27<sup>th</sup>).
- Treasurer's report: Ellen Hampton announced that as of the end of January, the treasury had a total of \$240.92.
- Groups:
  - Garden Club. The next meeting will be on Friday, 16 March, with a presentation by the county's Agriculture Agent, Mike Lachance. His presentation will be on growing vegetables on your deck.
  - The Book Club will meet on Monday, 13 February at Sarah Scott's house (125 Valley View Lane). The book for this month is Edna Ferber's *So Big*, which was published in 1924 and won a Pulitzer Prize. If you would like to join in the discussion, please contact either Barbara Porter ([ports1999@aol.com](mailto:ports1999@aol.com) or 325-7314) or Marti Szczur ([szczurmar@aol.com](mailto:szczurmar@aol.com) or 325-7164).
  - Handwork will meet on Friday, 24 February at Hilary Partridge's house (124 Wood Lily Lane) at 10:00. If you would like to be included on the group's email announcements, please contact Sarah Scott ([scottr1961@verizon.net](mailto:scottr1961@verizon.net) or 325-7375).
  - Epicurious met on Thursday, 9 February at Joyce Claman's house and enjoyed a pasta-making demonstration and lunch. The group meets every other month (even numbered months). The next meeting is Thursday, 12 April and will include a bread-making demonstration by Janelle Carroll. If you would like to receive emails about the group's activities, please email Sylvia Stafford ([sbstafford@verizon.net](mailto:sbstafford@verizon.net)).
- Announcements:
  - Nancy Nevill introduced Robyn Keenan Jones, who has just been hired by Wintergreen Performing Arts to handle housing for musicians during the festival. She will be working three days per week with an office in the Community Office Building.
  - Ellen English announced that the Nelson County SPCA Almost Home will be sponsoring a fund-raiser dance "Dance Your Winter Blues Away" on Saturday 10 March at the Rockfish Community Center. Tickets will be available at the door.

- Martha Misker announced that the first board WPOA board meeting is scheduled for Friday, 17 February. She mentioned that SVEC has placed a tower on the mountain in order to be able to diagnose power outages from their station.

The next meeting of Mountain Women is scheduled for Friday, 9 March at 10:00 at Trillium House.

Sylvia Stafford introduced Mary Ellen Condon-Rall as the morning's speaker. Mary Ellen is one of the founding members of Mountain Women. She obtained her PhD from University College of the University of London focusing on the 18<sup>th</sup> century British Navy. Since then her career has focused on twentieth-century military medicine. She has written several books including: *Disaster on Green Ramp* (1996), *The Medical Department: Medical Service in the War Against Japan* (1998), *The Medical Department: Medical Service in the European Theater of Operations* (1998), *The Ghost Mountain Boys: Their Epic March and the Terrifying Battle for New Guinea-The Forgotten War of the South Pacific*, *Historical Statistics of the United States: Colonial Times to 1970*, pt. 1-2 (House Document Series) (2003), and her latest, out late last year: *Attack on the Pentagon: the Medical Response to 911*.

Mary Ellen shared with the group her experience in learning to write disaster books: recognizing the personalities, who to interview, reading newspaper accounts, locating documents, choosing which actions to describe, and the importance of having talented people reading drafts.

Her newest book, *Attack on the Pentagon*, tells the story of both civilian and military response. Although the book covers a broader time period, her talk focused on the actions taken during the day of the attack, which occurred, ironically, on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1941 groundbreaking for the building. Mary Ellen provided a clear understanding of the physical layout of the Pentagon and how this layout helped and hindered medical response. The story emphasized the value of preparation and training. Pentagon medical personnel were well-trained in emergency response, having practiced with a table-top exercise just months before the attack. Serendipitously, the exercise focused on response to a commercial plane hitting the west side of the building. A mass casualty plan was in place and staff had practiced the actions included in it. The Arlington Fire Department had been a partner in this test. Because of this level of preparedness, response was immediate (within five minutes emergency centers were in operation) and organized (a previous decision to have medical staff/volunteers wear blue vests helped identify these individuals) even though those on the west side of the building (including civilian emergency responders and volunteers) could not communicate with Pentagon medical staff on the north side of the building. All of the victims who were able to get out of the building survived with the exception of one woman who later died due to smoke inhalation. All those who survived were able to get out of the building, or be rescued and evacuated within the first fifty minutes. Casualties totaled 125 (72 Army, 43 Navy and 10 DOD employees).

Insights provided by Mary Ellen's book and others have led Pentagon staff to revise emergency plans. Preparation and training truly paid off, but the experience underscored a need to learn how to use volunteers effectively and to control supplies efficiently and to have reliable communication. When any of these areas are weak, problems will occur.

The easiest way to purchase a copy of Mary Ellen's book is through Amazon; you can also order a copy through Barnes & Noble.

Mountain Women  
Minutes  
Meeting of 13 January 2012

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. with approximately 20 in attendance.

The program preceded the business meeting, with Melissa Hutchinson, Youth Program Coordinator for The Wintergreen Nature Foundation, as speaker.

Melissa's presentation provided an interesting overview of her work at the Nature Foundation over the last six to seven years. Her main responsibility is to provide youth programs within Nelson and surrounding counties as well as at the resort. Some of the goals of these programs include environmental and conservation education and getting kids out into nature while they learn. Other responsibilities include the planning for and maintenance of Robin's Nook in Trillium House.

As Nelson County ranks below the state average in the percentage of adults, aged twenty-five and over, who are high school graduates or individuals with bachelor's degrees, and as it has a high percentage of families living below the poverty level, it is important to give youth a real reason to learn. There are two elementary schools, 1 middle school, and 1 high school in Nelson County. These students either are bused to the Nature Foundation as a field trip, or Melissa and volunteers take the program into the schools. These programs provide a mixture of engagement, active learning, and fun. In addition, the schools benefit as the programs help them meet MWEE (Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience) requirements. A new program in the past year was the Earth Day Festival, held at the high school. This program represented an expansion into new ways to program with groups of students providing ideas and planning, with consulting support from Melissa and school faculty.

Project Opportunity is an after school tutoring program at Rockfish River Elementary School. The work is project based, meets twice per week, and is led by people in the community. Tutors supply math and science lessons based on the projects. Melissa has been working on a six-week bluebird trail project (lots of bird houses being built!).

The Wish List Program helps provide teachers with materials for their classrooms that they might not otherwise be able to purchase with limited budgetary funding. This program is in the form of a mini-grant request which is submitted by the teacher. While in the past requests have been for traditional science-based school room supply materials, recent requests have included benches for an outdoor garden created by one school/class; science/environmental education content books requested by a reading specialist; and materials for organic clay projects requested by an art teacher.

After a brief break, the business meeting was called to order at approximately 11:10 a.m. by President Marti Szczur.

- Yvonne Behm and members of The Springs neighborhood were thanked for the refreshments.
- New member, Carole Lonergan (of Northern Virginia and Fairway Oaks), was welcomed.
- Birthdays for the month of January were announced: Joan Stemmler (11<sup>th</sup>), Joyce Smith (15<sup>th</sup>), Kathy Ely (20<sup>th</sup>), Helen Eisenhart (22<sup>nd</sup>), Barbara Porter (29<sup>th</sup>), and Wendy Valentine (31<sup>st</sup>).
- Minutes of the December meeting were approved as distributed via email.
- Ellen Hampton, Treasurer, reported funds (prior to the meeting) totaled \$268.14.

- Steering Committee Report. The committee met at 9:15 a.m. and welcomed two new members, Ellen Hampton and Sylvia Stafford. Officers for 2012 are: President, Marti Szczur; Vice President, Camille Kurtz; Treasurer, Ellen Hampton; Communicating Secretary, Christine Casey; and Recording Secretary, Carolyn Barkley. Sylvia will be serving as the Laurel Springs neighborhood chair.
- Group Reports
  1. Gardening. The next meeting will be on Friday, 16 March, with a presentation by the county's Agriculture Agent, Mike Lachance. His presentation will be on growing vegetables on your deck.
  2. Book Club. The next meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, 16 January at Sarah Scott's house (125 Valley View Lane). In keeping with the current theme of reading Pulitzer Prize winning titles, this month's book is Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*.
  3. Handwork. The handwork group will hold its first meeting of 1012 on Friday, 27 January at 9:30 a.m. at Sarah Scott's house (125 Valley View Lane). Joan Stemmler promises to wear the sweater that she's been working on forever.
  4. Epicurious. A planning meeting was held on Thursday, 12 January. This year's fund raiser will be in support of Wintergreen Performing Arts. The group normally meets the Thursday before Mountain Women in even number months. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 9 February and will include a bread-making demonstration by Janelle Carroll or a demonstration of pasta-making by Joyce Claman. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sylvia Stafford ([sbstafford@verizon.net](mailto:sbstafford@verizon.net)).
- Announcements
  1. Eloise Strand, a board member with Wintergreen Adaptive Sports reported that the board needs new directors, particularly someone with accounting or legal/attorney experience. The term is for three years and, if interested or you know someone who might be interested, please contact her at [hrdyna@aol.com](mailto:hrdyna@aol.com) or 325-2067.
  2. Cindy Coy announced that she was looking for housing volunteers for the Wintergreen Alpine Special Invitational (WASI) to be held the weekend of January 23-24. If you can provide housing, please contact her at [ccoywtg@msn.com](mailto:ccoywtg@msn.com) or 325-9144.

The February meeting of Mountain Women will be held on Friday, 10 February at 10:00 at The Wintergreen Nature Foundation. Mary Ellen Condon Rawls will be speaking about her new book. Refreshments will be provided by Laurel Springs.