

TE CERT MINUTES

March 17, 2021

Attendance: Laura Freese, Sharon Denson, Steve Watkins, Tom Briggie, Bruce Smith, David Bliss, John White, Carol White, Ann King, Dan Smith, Mary Lou Smith, Barry Campbell, JoAnn Campbell

Meeting called to order by Laura Freese at 10:00 am. The pledge to the flag was followed by the Secretary's report and Treasurer's report (\$1577.98) which were both approved by the membership, with a correction to the minutes. The Campbells are from Oregon, not Massachusetts.

JoAnn was presented a CERT backpack, after presenting her certificate. Barry hasn't located his certificate since moving here so his backpack will be presented later. Sharon must forward certificates to EOC before members are official and receive backpacks.

David reported on the trailer work. Dave and Charlie continue the trailer work. Some of the wood is curing at the moment.

HAM Radio classes: Dan will send out an email to see how many might want a class in the fall

HAM Equipment: Dan brought examples of equipment needed for the trailer prior to hurricane season. Dan moved and Sharon seconded authorization to spend up to \$300.00 for the equipment. Motion passed. Dan will use the credit card and order the items. Once the items arrive the HAM operators will get together and learn how to use the equipment.

Tom said he would continue looking at Donations/Grants: He reported that part of the stimulus package was for grants to non-profits. He will continue to look into it.

Sharon passed out brochures from FEMA that educate people about CERT. She had a sample of the donation letter she wrote for CERT on our letterhead and a business card stapled to the letter. She suggested that the members approach community businesses with the packet and solicit donations. Members agreed and Sharon agreed to be the contact person and handle the project. It was decided that any member should email her with information about who they have or intend to contact so we don't have multiple members contacting the same place. She will forward the information to the membership. Sharon will continue to search the internet for online donation solicitation.

Dan reported on local amateur radio resources in the community. There are two functioning clubs here that he talked about, The Manatee Amateur Radio Club, Inc, and Manatee County Emergency Support Group, Inc, He encouraged HAM operators to join these groups.

Laura asked if anyone had taken the online CERT 317 class. Nobody has so far.

Sharon will present the Sarasota hybrid CERT class idea at her Coalition meeting with Misty Servia to familiarize her with the concept in hopes of getting Manatee County to follow Sarasota County in doing part of the training classes online, and the skills classes in person.

Sharon and Mary Lou have both been accepted by the State College of Florida as volunteers to assist with their CERT training classes. Sharon reported that she received the manuals and brochures from FEMA.

Sharon and Laura can now do training here for new CERT members. A class is being planned for May. We are authorized to use the Manatee County application forms and Manatee County will furnish the backpacks and equipment for the backpacks. The trainers need a dedicated computer for the training classes. It should cost in the neighborhood of \$300.00. If we start getting donations as a result of our solicitation, we can use some of that money to purchase a computer. She has a PowerPoint presentation for the training (24 contact hours).

Sharon and Mary Lou participated in an all-day "Refresher" class put on by Sarasota County. They have been very gracious about letting us in their classes.

Showing movies for donations was brought up again. Laura will see how other groups have fared with attendance and donations (we can't charge for admission) and report at the next meeting.

New Business:

New breakfast dates were given for the 2021-2022 season. The hall/kitchen will be reserved from 7am until noon on January 10, February 14, March 14, and April 11. Mark your calendars.

Meeting Schedule: The meetings will be the third Wednesday at 10:00 am. Laura has reserved the room from 9:30-12:00. Special presentations (Stop the Bleed, Active Shooter, and Search and Rescue) will be put on during these times, since the room will already be reserved. Sharon will arrange the dates.

Steve reported that he negotiated a better deal and saved us some money on our emblems.

Laura passed out 2021 Hurricane brochures.

David brought samples of loud (130 dB) whistles that could be used by a person needing help in an emergency. It would be good for a person living alone.

At the next meeting, we will discuss who will be here during hurricane season and plan accordingly.

Motion by Sharon, seconded by Steve, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Mary Lou Smith, Secretary