



WORKING TOGETHER/GROWING TOGETHER

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday March 15, 2016

President Jane Hatchet called the meeting to order at 8:05. There were 20 in attendance. Following the pledge of allegiance and a benediction by Steve Reusch, Program Chair Jane Darr introduced Whitney Aleshire-Embrey, Program Officer for the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas (FB-NCA).

Summer Backpack Program: No Kid Hungry is part of her program area, and she spoke about the Summer Backpack Program for kids. Sixteen million kids in America live in households without consistent access to food. There are 10,000 of these children in the nine county area served by the FB-NCA; 1 in 3 children in Baxter County fall into that category. No Kid Hungry is funded through the USDA Feeding America program. Weekend backpacks are sent home with children through the school year. To provide access to food, summer backpacks will be distributed at hub sites that are easily accessible to children. The three in Baxter County are the L. C. Sammons Youth Center five days per week, the Donald W. Reynolds Library serving Baxter County on Saturday afternoon, and the Gassville Park once a week. Galen Doyel is the Gassville Coordinator. They are working to get a mobile unit to Gassville Gardens. They are looking for a site in Cotter. They anticipate distributing about 15,000 healthy meals this summer. The Food Bank distributed about 2.7 million pounds of food last year.

Worker Rehabilitation: Peter Pietz, board member for the FB-NCA described the Move-Up-to-Independence and the Ready to Work programs that the FB-NCA is offering to help move families from dependence on distributed food to being able to provide for themselves. Currently they are working on securing a \$1 million award from the state to enact a program to rehabilitate workers and connect industry with those workers.

West Baxter Community Food Room: Barbara Carson from the White River Baptist Association described the progress on getting the Old Rollins Hospital ready to serve as the Community Food Room, which will move from its current location next to the Nazarene Church in Cotter which is currently open two days per month. Their goal is to move by May 1. It will include a clothing ministry and a thrift store. It will be open two days per month, hopefully increasing to 4-5 days per month.

Old Business

- Shawnee-Supreme Fishing Tournament Update – Nathan and Bradley reported 51 teams have entered. They have raised \$5,000. They will need 4-5 volunteers to help serve food on the 26th.
- Cotter Trout Festival Update – The poster contest winner is Caleb Gilley from Yellville. He is a student at ASU-MH. The \$300 prize is sponsored by Nathan Buck, RiverBend Retirement and the White River Team. A photo op and publicity will be arranged to make the announcement. One hundred fifty posters will be printed, numbered, and signed by Caleb. The \$300 that the Chamber committed to will be covered by Nathan Buck, RiverBend Retirement, and the White River Team. Festival Sponsors are being sought with several already committed.
- Scholarship – Five applications have been received. The deadline is March 31. The Scholarship Committee will select a candidate and the award will be presented at the school award ceremony.
- Montgomery reported an outstanding balance of \$700 due from some of the advertisers in Fly Fish America. Taylor is going to drop off copies of the magazine and remind them to pay; Montgomery will send another invoice.

New Business

- Andy Hilburn Viney, the new owner of McDonalds in Gassville and Mountain Home was introduced.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.