

**Foodnet Meals on Wheels
Board of Director's Meeting
January 14, 2008**

Present: *Board Members:* Joy Blumkin, Loren Colbert, Christine Decker, Loren Gardner, Melissa Gatch, Jim Henery, Bob Herdt, Liz Norton, Mary Opperman, Cathy Paddock, Elizabeth Schneider, Bill Tomek and Margaret Washington.

Guest: Sonya Islam

Staff: Stephen Griffin, Carolyn Arnold

Excused: Eloise Greene

The meeting was called to order at 6:19 by Vice Chair Bill Tomek who conducted the proceedings until Chair Mary Opperman arrived a short time later. Introductions were made to Sonya Islam, a Cornell Cooperative Extension staff person who is considering membership on our Board. Welcome Sonya!

Minutes of the December 10, 2007 Board meeting: motion to approve by Chris Decker, seconded by Liz Norton; carried.

Committee Reports:

Nominating/Bill Tomek: Jim Henery and Bill Tomek will reach the end of their first 3 year term in February 2008. Both have agreed to be nominated for a second 3-year term. Loren Colbert and Liz Norton have reached the end of their second 3-year terms and will therefore be retiring from the Board. Loren has agreed to remain on the Development Committee. Offers of Board membership have been extended to potential candidates to fill these 3 vacancies.

Development Committee/Loren Colbert: A sheet was distributed comparing fund raising results for 2006 and 2007. Donations totaled \$120,074.77 in 2007, representing a 21.5 % increase (\$21,257.14) over the previous year. \$3742.85 has been raised to date in 2008. \$2000 of this amount came from the Tompkins Trust Company for their sponsorship of the 2008 Wheel-a-thon. Special thanks go out to Jim Henery for his outreach to area faith communities. 6 congregations responded with a total of \$1,207.85.

December Financial Statements/Bob Herdt: Business increased by 4% over last year. Although we continue to meet expenses, we are relying more heavily on fund raising to balance the budget. A number of economies were implemented, but depreciation continues to be a challenge.

Executive Committee Report/Mary Opperman: none

Buildings and Property/Jim Henery: Steve Griffin reported that the new Foodnet Meals on Wheels sign has been installed on the building façade. Another sign near the front curb is made of a reflective material that may eliminate the need for illumination at night.

P.E.P. Committee/Liz Norton: Our participant contribution statement needs to be updated to reflect new federal standards. The committee reviewed “rules and regulations” documents currently being distributed by Erie County to their meal recipients. These documents will be modified for use by our program.

Staff Report/Carolyn Arnold: Foodnet Meals on Wheels received grant funding from the United Way and Triad Foundation for a 12 month full-time (35 hr/wk) Nutrition Outreach Worker position, with possible renewal for another year. The position combines FoodStamp Outreach with assessment of clients in the home-delivered meals program and making appropriate referrals. 16 applications were received. Interviews were offered to the top 5 candidates with 2 of these declining once they learned that the funding was temporary. The remaining 3 candidates were interviewed. References will be checked before a final selection is made. Supervision will be provided by Carolyn. Funding for this position is not currently reflected in the budget.

A motion was made by Bob Herdt and seconded by Melissa Gatch to accept this \$33,000 grant and to establish the Nutrition Outreach Worker position for which it is intended. The 2008 budget will be modified accordingly. The motion carried.

Staff Report/Steve Griffin: A 2006/2007 comparative report was distributed for review. There has been a 7.1% increase in the total number of meals served and a 2.3 % increase in the total number of people served. A significant part of this increase occurred at the congregate meal sites. Steve credits the expertise of the site managers and careful menu planning for this increase. Average participant contributions per meal have decreased 6.4% but total contributions had a slight increase of .7%. Costs for food, supplies and labor increased 4.1%

The year ended on a high note with receipt of the Outreach position grant, and strong responses to our mail campaign and faith community donation letter.

Old/Unfinished Business: Donated pet food will be delivered to meal recipients who request it. We now have more than enough blizzard bags on hand due to generous replacement of damaged bags by the supplier.

New Business: ROTC at Cornell has offered to donate shelf stable “Meals Ready to Eat” for distribution in an emergency. Jim Henery will explore this possibility. Margaret Washington was commended for her recent book completion. It is a biography of Sojourner Truth and is being printed by the University of Chicago Press.

Following a motion by Bob Herdt, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Paddock, Secretary