

RBRCCB Minutes
December 7, 2019
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Rocky Bottom

Welcome:

The meeting was called to order by Frank Coppel at 9:30 a.m. Ed Bible opened the meeting in prayer.

Members Present:

Frank Coppel (chair), Ed Bible (vice chair), Shannon Cook (secretary), Valerie Warrington (treasurer), David Houck, Jennifer Bazer, Lenora Robertson, Thomas Bowen.

Debra Canty was not present.

Others present were Shelley Coppel, Steve Cook, Julie Bible, JW Smith, Isaiah Nelson, Loretta Green, Laverne Addison, Linda Bible, Tiffany Mitchell, Derique Simon, Jimmy Masters, Ted Brewer (Salem Lions), Carl Halberson (Salem Lions), Tomekia Williams, and Demetrius Williford.

Treasurer's Report:

Valerie Warrington read the financial report since our last meeting. The following balances are in the respective accounts.

General:	\$1562.80
Children's Camp:	\$1908.82
Endowment:	\$6462.88

The report was moved for passage by Jennifer Bazer, seconded, and passed by the board.

Reading and approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the July 27 meeting were read, moved for passage, and approved by the board.

National Senior Retreat:

Shelley Coppel updated the board on the week. There were 13 people that attended the retreat week from nine states. Wayne Marshall from Georgia instructed people on mobility. Frank Loza, from the Belvedere Chapter, came to present assistive technology devices. Shelly Duffy from Ohio assisted with learning the iPhone. Frank Coppel taught braille. Many of those who attended went back to their respective states to link up with services such as the Talking Book Service, Hadley, and the Free Currency Reader Program, just to name a few. The Salem Lions helped with supplemental transportation needs. Shelley talked about how well-suited Ruth Sager is to head up the retreat week. She has taught at the Louisiana Center and in Baltimore. She is well adept at working with people to help them discover their abilities, but not do too much or little for them in the process. Students wore learning shades during their outings.

Senior Camp:

Shannon Cook updated the board on the activities of Senior Camp in October. There were 20 campers. Due to heavy rain and a transportation shortage, there was not a field trip, but the time was not wasted. Frank Loza presented on the assistive devices available on the market for blind people. That was very well received. The mix of new and veteran attendees made for a lot of interest and sharing among those who came. Thanks go out to the kitchen crew and other staff who worked tirelessly during the week. Also, the kitchen crew had to manage on a restricted budget from the prior camps, and did an excellent job rising to the challenge.

Operations Report:

Ed Bible reported that ST (Successful Transitions) bought a new AC unit for the dining hall over the summer. One was purchased for Osterneck and a third for the Conference Center lobby, board room, and offices. The National Senior Retreat organizers wanted to have a back-up generator in case of a power outage during the week. One was borrowed for the recent retreat week in September. It would have cost \$10,000 for a suitable unit to be purchased. Children's Camp covered the cost of having the septic tanks pumped out in preparation for summer and fall events. The septic tanks will need to be pumped out annually from now on. The Salem Lions are paying for a handyman twice monthly to help with repairs and maintenance at the camp. The project being worked on at present is securing the decks on the back of the conference center. They were pulling away from the building. The old pump left in the pump house had to be modified to comply with DHEC requirements. The pump piping was removed, as well as the motor. It was also capped off too. These efforts cost approximately \$1000. They were necessary to show that the pump was closed. The new pump has a roof on the pump house, thanks to the Salem Lions Club. The back wall of the pump house was put up by the Mt. Hebron church group. Mt. Hebron United Methodist Church came to RBRCCB in October to repair the flooring in the conference center kitchen. The damaged areas underneath the freezer were removed and replaced to meet the regulations set forth by DHEC. In Osterneck, there was still a little bit of a mold issue that is being worked on. There is still termite damage that has not been repaired yet. When it was treated in 2010, a termite bond was never obtained. There is now one on the building this time that is being maintained. Hebron UMC that were acknowledged, but not listed specifically. The Boy Scouts had three troops to clean yard debris away. Mt. Hebron has a work trip planned for March 18 – 22, 2020, to come and work on some major projects, including replacing a wall in Osterneck. The roof in Osterneck need to be replaced, and a quote has been given, but the camp needs the funding to be able to move forward with that repair. Ed and Julie Bible donated a vending machine for the conference center that is currently in the lobby. They also got a refrigerator for Osterneck. The Coppels donated furniture for the lobby of the conference center. Ashton and Dondra Bible helped transport the vending machine, refrigerator, and furniture to the camp. Mt. Hebron painted the holding tank at Oglesby. Salem Lions repaired the fencing by the pond that was crushed by the winter storm the year before. The Federation Center has donated between \$8000 and \$9000 to RBRCCB for various projects over the past year. The camp has been very fortunate to have groups and individuals who have helped keep the camp functional and continue to work hard to make improvements.

Finances:

Chair Coppel stated that the current state of the camp's finances is not certain; especially, since there are not many rentals scheduled. He encouraged everyone to give Valerie \$20 to reimburse RBRCCB for the food costs for the weekend. . Ted Brewer and Carl Halberson Gave \$2000

from the Salem Lions, to help boost the account for the camp. The members present gave the gentlemen a round of applause for their generous donation. Fundraising ideas were presented by Valerie Warrington and Jennifer Bazer. They applied for the Blue Ridge Co-Op's grant for \$10,000. A second grant proposal for AFLAC was also for \$10,000. In prior years, RBRCCB has applied for Walmart Community Grants. Up to 25 grants can be applied for in one year. (Also, NFB of SC can apply; since, the Tax ID numbers are different.) RBRCCB received \$750 in the past from the Wal-Mart Community grant. Each of those potential grants are awarded in amounts ranging from \$250 - \$5000. Jennifer and Valerie are making appointments with prospective donors and grant providers to let them be able to put a name and face with a proposal. Most of the grant funding starts over in January of each year.

Tom Bowen shared that his grandfather T A Bowen was one of the founders of Blue Ridge Electric. He also built the camp when it was a 4-H camp. He said that we could use that information when applying for grants. Lenora Robertson mentioned that Mr. Capps used to get grants from The Milken (sp) Foundation and Springs Mills in Fort Mill. Mr. Coppel stated that those sources are not available anymore.

Carl Halberson and Ted Brewer stated that the Salem Lions got \$5000 from the Dabo All-In Team Foundation in ear one, and \$7500 in year two. Mr. Halberson said that the application is only one page, so less work for a potentially big payout.

David Hayes' company has a 3 to 1 matching grant program. He gave \$500, so they will give \$1500 to RBRCCB. Mr. Hayes is a family member of a new senior camper. The camper gave \$400 herself.

Mr. Coppel will be attending a state presidents' seminar prior to the Washington Seminar. He will propose having the national organization take on RBRCCB as a large project.

Mr. Brewer suggested having someone help Linda Bible with preparing for groups to come in. With her recent health struggles, it is necessary not to have undo stress put on her. Mr. Coppel let him know that the camp has hired someone to come in and assist with cleaning. Mr. Brewer suggested to have her help with setting up for large groups too. Mr. Coppel said that they would.

RBRCCB Website:

On November 20, Frank, Shelley, Ed, Jennifer, Barry Chavis, Gary Lane (Mt. Hebron), Adrina Sampson, and Jessica, a marketing professional, met to discuss the website. They were considering using Jessica's business for marketing, social media exposure, and promotion of RBRCCB. Having Rocky Bottom be put on Air B & B was talked about as well. Changes to the website that could improve online traffic would be to create a page to schedule/book rooms/building and to be able to pay or donate online too. The pictures were being redone for the site. Each of the three rooms in the conference center would be upgraded with matching bedspreads, all white new towels, a fresh coat of paint, throw rugs to hide the worn spots in the carpet, and new pictures for the walls of the guest rooms. Mt. Hebron was being asked to donate \$400 to purchase several Bed-in-a-Bag sets for this purpose. One of the goals is to show how sighted people use the camp to promote it to the general public, and not make it seem like it is exclusively for blind people. Mr. Brewer asked when the painting and updating would likely be

done. Jennifer said that she'd like it to be by the end of the year; however, realistically, it would be too hurried to get that done. More likely, it would be good to shoot for some time in January. Mr. Brewer said that the Salem Lions could get those three rooms painted by the end of January. Jennifer informed the board too, that eventually, they would like to fix up the apartment for Air B & B too. But it is not in the first wave of upgrades.

Chair Coppel thanked everyone for their input with trying to find ways to help fund Rocky Bottom.

Fun Day:

Mr. Coppel asked the group about changing Fun Day from the traditional Labor Day weekend to another time. There is far too much competing with Fun Day to be able to have a decent chance of making money from the community and general public. He suggested having it into October, more like an Autumn Fest. Of course, pick a weekend when Clemson is not playing. Many options were suggested. Frank said he would have a conference call between now and the January meeting to decide on the date.

Jimmy Masters said that Linda needs a heater. She has two small heaters that she uses, but as the weather gets colder, those will not be enough. Frank said it will go on the needs list.

Conference Center Kitchen:

In addition to a new roof for Osterneck, a major area of need concerns the appliances in the conference center commercial kitchen. That includes the refrigerator, freezer, dish washer, and oven. If those appliances aren't replaced by the time of the spring and summer rentals, DHEC will shut down the camp. Shelley and Barry started a separate savings account only for the purpose of saving for a new freezer and refrigerator. JW Smith proposed starting the 100/100 program. The expected cost of replacing the freezer and refrigerator is \$10,000. He said if 100 people give \$100 each, that would pay for the replacement appliances. Jennifer stated that over 50 letters have been mailed to community members asking for donations for the camp. Those letters need to be followed up on. Back to the 100/100 program, JW Smith said he would give \$100 to get things started.

Linda's Bonus:

Linda Bible was asked to leave. There was not enough in the RBRCCB account to give Linda a bonus this year. Funds were collected, and would be up until the Christmas party tonight to be able to provide her with at least a small token of appreciation. She has not been paid a regular salary since July, so most of her efforts have been pro bono.

The next RBRCCB Board meeting will be held during the statewide seminar on January 4, 2020.

Adjournment:

The meeting was closed in prayer, at noon by Jennifer Bazer.

Submitted by,
Shannon Cook
RBRCCB Secretary