

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

2022

Nihitaa' Binaanish Our Father's Business

A registered 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to serving the Navajo Nation by improving the lives of low-income Diné people through mentoring and support with home building, home repairs, construction-skills training, life-skills coaching, educational opportunities and spiritual growth.

House of Fellowship, 41 Skeets Road, Bread Springs NM
December 12, 2022

SOCIAL DISTANCE, MASKS AND HAND HYGIENE SUGGESTED DURING MEETING

1. **The meeting was called to order by President Fred Thomas at 1:00 p.m.**, after a meal was served. Fred offered the prayer. In attendance were: Fred Thomas, President; Lorraine Thomas, Vice President; Jennifer Holmes, Secretary, Fara Jefferson, Treasurer.
2. The minutes of the November 6, 2021 Annual Meeting had been distributed by mail to all members in December, 2021. Jennifer reviewed the minutes. **Lorraine moved the minutes be accepted, Jennifer seconded. Motion Passed. Minutes of 2/28/21 Annual Meeting accepted.**
3. **IRS and NM Taxation and Revenue Combined Reporting System update:** Jennifer noted that we are current with all our 2022 tax reporting, including our Federal 990 e-postcard, the NM Charitable Organization Annual Report and The NM Secretary of State Fiscal Year Report. (NM Annual Report and NM Sec. of State Annual Reports will be filed before June, 2023.)
4. **Treasurer's Report and Recent Expenditures.** Lorraine reviewed the Treasurer's Report with concurrence by treasurer Fara. The current checking account balance is \$19,216.75 . Recent expenditures have been for QuickBooks online version, Elder care packages for Christmas, wood splitter (with funds raised by memorial gifts in honor of Ken Holmes) firewood and intern stipends, benevolence gifts, and sound equipment for Big Tent activities. Lorraine explained that Quick Books will be used to generate current 1099 reports and also compiled tax receipts for donors, as well as day to day project and expense accounting. **Jennifer moved that the treasurer report be accepted, Lorraine seconded. Motion passed. Treasurer's Report of 11/6//21 accepted.**
5. **Election of Officers.** It was decided by consensus that we will hold elections at our March, 2023 meeting, when more members will be able to attend. **The date of the next NB Board Meeting was set for Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 1 p.m. at House of Fellowship, 31 Skeets Road, Bread Springs, NM.**

Current Officers are:

President: Fred Thomas, three year term expiring, November, 2023

Vice President: Lorraine Thomas, two year term, expiring March, 2023

Secretary--Jennifer Holmes, two year term, expiring March, 2023

Treasurer: Fara Jefferson, two year term, expiring March, 2023

VACANT: **At-Large Board Member** (Eva Platero's term expired November, 2022).

6. Old Business

6A. 2022 Projects Lorraine and Fred reviewed the following construction, benevolent and self-help projects:

- Construction projects in 2022: Nel's room: added a room for disabled relative so her hospital bed and lift can be moved out of the living room of their small home. This project was worked on collaboratively with World Servants volunteers. The work is about 80% done, still needs closets and floors.
- plumbing repairs, roof repairs, electrical work in community, various neighbors as need arises, including Fara's sister's windows, and siding north of Gallup, Gerald and Carla at Bread Springs (assisting them as they work on home renovations) and Plateros at Ft Defiance (painting whole house and splitting firewood.)
- Collaborations with World Servants (Nel's room in September), Sandia Presbyterian Church (food distribution and filled backpacks) and White Rock Presbyterian Church (work weekend at Ft. Defiance, see above):
- To'hajiilee distribution : Food distribution through RoadRunner food bank and SPC continued Nov. 21-April 22. In Dec. Zoom meeting with Steve Sobolik from SPC it was noted that it was a needed effort at the time but due to some disorganization of RRFB and lack of local community volunteers, this program will not be continuing, though others will (see New Business.)
- Big Tent collaboration: The tent was picked up in Oklahoma and dedication was held at HOF during the summer. Families request a tent meeting and Fred makes arrangements to preach and teach at their residence and provide access to NB resources such as construction mentoring/support and firewood ministry. Fred hopes to reach more youth through the Tent ministry; it is a great journey which was started 10 years before NB was organized and it has really grown and is serving the people. We need a lot of prayers for HOF and NB so it can continue, as families request revivals at their residences. Big Tent activities will resume in the coming spring and summer during warmer weather.
- firewood ministry: This ministry continues all year long. Sometimes we buy wood from local vendors then hire local interns to split and deliver the wood. Sometimes we harvest the wood ourselves and deliver it. There is always a need for firewood among our neighbors and relatives. We work with McKinley County Court System to supervise local men and women who need to complete hours of community service per court orders. They work with mentors Fred or Lorraine to harvest, haul, split, deliver and stack firewood for elders in the community.
- New flatbed trailer purchase and projects: We purchased a new flatbed trailer in June to replace our 24 year old one. This helps with our construction projects.
- Backpacks for back to school: 50 backpacks filled with water bottles and hand wipes (items not covered by local schools' distributions) were distributed at a Tent Meeting in Crownpoint in early fall with the opportunity to pray for each child receiving a backpack. The backpacks were funded by an \$800 donation from Sandia Presbyterian Vacation Bible School offering.
- Navajo Nation Parade and honoring Louva Dahozy: HOF and NB were represented on a float (gooseneck trailer provided by Eva and Leonard Platero) where gospel music was played during Navajo Nation parade on September 12, 2022.

- Hosting visiting donors: Lorraine and Fred hosted Gretchen Douthit and her sister Nancy from Arkansas who met some of the people NB serves and enjoyed a tour of the eastern part of the Navajo Nation and the Navajo Nation fair.

7. New Business

- New construction projects: Most opportunities arise through prayer and visits with neighbors and relatives. Possible projects include trailer work in Ianbito, roofing at HOF, a neighbor's residence with in-kind labor, road improvement for a recently widowed community member.
- Collaborations with Sandia Presbyterian: possibly a personal finance management program, supporting Diné owned small businesses and wood delivery to To'hajiilee.
- New log splitter in memory of Ken Holmes; The new 30 ton log splitter will be arriving this week. Over \$10,000 was raised through gifts in Ken's name, so this is enough to pay for the splitter and hire interns to split the wood. Fara knows a person who does laser printing and will investigate how we can get a plaque with Ken's name on to put on the splitter.
- New computer, including QuickBooks. Lorraine is hoping to purchase a mac book soon so it will be compatible with the new quick books program.
- recommended purchases and expenditures for 2023
Recommended budget priorities:
 - a. 60% for construction projects (including intern stipends)
 - b. 10% for firewood ministry (including intern stipends)
 - c. 20% for House of Fellowship activities and support, including propane, outreach, evangelism, benevolence, and fellowship
 - d. 10% for NB administration and fuel costs
- fundraising and marketing plans: Jennifer will work on updating the website and sending out an e-newsletter through Mail Chimp with the help of friends at WRPC.
- Christmas '22 plans: Ten care gift bags containing slippers, socks and a warm blanket will be distributed to local elders along with a small bundle of wood. In addition, with a \$500 donation from WRPC, Lorraine will buy gift bag items for 20 local children. Jennifer will post a picture of the gift bags on facebook advertising an opportunity for donors to sponsor a gift bag for \$50
- Funding percentages for NB funds were decided on after discussion:
 - a. 60% for construction projects (including interns)
 - b. 10% for firewood ministry (including interns)
 - c. 10% for House of Fellowship activities and support including propane, outreach, evangelism, benevolence and fellowship
 - d. 10% for NB administration, fuel costs
 - e. 10% for food aid in conjunction with Roadrunner Food Bank and Sandia Presbyterian Church

9. Adjournment: Fred made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Fara. Motion carried. Jennifer closed with prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Sent to all NB Board Members and former Board Members:

Minutes sent by U.S. mail and email to:

Fred Thomas, President, Box 846, Gallup NM, 87305

Lorraine Thomas, Vice President, Box 846, Gallup NM 87305

Jennifer Holmes, Secretary, 1880 Camino Redondo, Los Alamos NM 87544

Fara Jefferson, Treasurer, Box 2205 Gallup NM 87305

Eva Platero, PO Box 227, Fort Defiance, AZ 86504

Olive Pinto, PO Box 217, Ramah NM 87321