

Hospice Volunteers of Hancock County

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Our 35th Anniversary

5:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Atlantic Oceanside Hotel, Bar Harbor, Maine

Minutes

Board Members Present: Mike Alteri, Ken Schweikert, Win Turner, Leita Zeugner, Stacie Brown, Barbara Clark and Maureen Giunta. **We Missed:** John Primeau, Betsy Roberts and Charles Tarr.

Social Hour and Slide Show: The evening began with a social hour – a time for volunteers and friends to reconnect and enjoy a revolving slide show of HVHC events from the past year.

Welcome: Executive Director, Jody Wolford-Tucker welcomed guests and thanked volunteers for coming. Special recognition went to several guests: Kandyce Powell, Executive Director of Maine Hospice Council, former HVHC Program Director Gerry Gregersen as well as several other area business supporters. Volunteers Debbie Kiley and Rich Viera were recognized along with Dan Curtis of EBS and Frank Stanley from the American Legion for their role in building a ramp for a veteran hospice patient. Frank Stanley spoke briefly and thanked HVHC volunteers for all their work in the community. HVHC volunteer Valerie Sulya was recognized for receiving this year's Channel 2 WLBZ "Those Who Care" award for her outstanding service to the community. This was followed by words of gratitude spoken by Emilie Hermans, HVHC Office Manager.

Dinner was served

Taking Care of Business: Mike Alteri, Board President, led this portion of the meeting. Minutes from the 2014 HVHC Annual Meeting were voted on and approved. Leita Zeugner, Treasurer, gave a brief overview of the financials from 2014-2015 which were provided in the Annual Report packet. Leita noted an error on the Balance Sheet that was provided in the packet (a decimal point mistake in the section outlining funds within our Endowment), and which will be corrected in the permanent record. Outgoing Board Members Claire Cullinane and Jane Sanderson were recognized with thanks for their many contributions to the organization. Changes for the coming year were announced regarding the leadership of the Board by the Executive Committee team, comprised of Mike Alteri and Ken Schweikert as Co-Chairs, Barbara Clark as Vice President, Stacie Brown as Secretary and Leita Zeugner as Treasurer.

The Year in Review: Jody Wolford-Tucker gave a brief overview of the past year, including:

- Review of the past year inherently includes the strengths and relationships of the organization built over the previous 35 years.
- Recognizing the past year as a year of growth and change in staff.

- The 700+ annual financial supporters and the hundreds of additional providers of in-kind gifts form a net that holds us up and makes it possible for us to serve those in need of our care. This included record success with our Annual Auction, Regatta and other fundraisers this year.
- Our history as an independent hospice program has afforded us special status among our colleagues – we have been able to partner with each new medical hospice provider as they have formed. We have also expanded our services offered in collaboration with partners in the community (including reaching out to grant-making institutions).
- Current efforts in creating a three-year Strategic Plan which identifies key goals for the future. Outcomes and Actions to meet these goals are in the process of being created and HVHC volunteers and community supporters were invited to participate in that process.
- The four goals set for the strategic plan are:
 1. Strategically position the organization as an integral provider in the changing landscape of end-of-life services.
 2. Heighten community understanding of how HVHC services enhance and enrich the end-of-life journey for individuals, caregivers, and families.
 3. Create a multi-faceted *Development* strategy to support the day-to-day and long-term health of the organization.
 4. Upgrade the HVHC facility to meet evolving program needs.

Recognizing Volunteers: Staff members Jody Wolford-Tucker, Becky Pease, Janice Ronco and Emilie Hermans announced the volunteers chosen to receive the Zeke Dennett Volunteer of the Year awards this year. The recipients were: Lynda Tadema-Wielandt, a dedicated volunteer who has provided many years of exceptional patient care. Roseann Schultz, a hospice Patient Care Volunteer and bereavement support office volunteer extraordinaire. Volunteers Diane Sanderson and Maureen Giunta who have cared for our gardens so lovingly and put in many hours of labor over the years. Bereavement Support Volunteers (as a group) who have helped grow the bereavement program in the past year, offering nine support groups at three new sites as well as at HVHC. And a special tribute to Harriet Bowden who has been our steadfast office volunteer for three Fridays a month for more years than we can count! She has done whatever is necessary for our organization from thank-you notes to lending equipment to staffing registration tables, and she has always done it all with a cheerful smile.

Keynote Presentation: New Board member and former Executive Director Barbara Clark spoke about the history of HVHC, from the original founders to the present day, emphasizing the dedication and courage it took to keep going in the face of lack of funds and doubts as to the organization's future. She talked about the balance between "big heart" and fiscal responsibility. Thanks to vision, hard work and the strength of HVHC's mission, this organization has thrived and is going strong.

Closing: The audience was treated to music by the Evensong singers. Janice Ronco, Bereavement Services Coordinator, then gave the closing remarks reflecting on how HVHC helps create a culture of compassion that can heal broken hearts and broken spirits.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.