

GENESEE COUNTY CLERK'S/TREASURER'S ASSOCIATION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 4, 1998, 12:00 P.M.  
WALLI'S SUPPER CLUB, G-4160 W. PIERSON RD., FLINT, MI

The Meeting was called to order at 12:50 P.M. by Ginger Spencer, President.

Ginger congratulated Fred Maul and Newana Visser for having survived a recall election.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

There was nothing to report from the Clerks.

Ginger gave a brief report from the Treasurer's Meeting. (See attached minutes) She noted that Karen McIntosh is leaving MIS as of November 30<sup>th</sup>. Tom will still be in the office.

Sarah Bachman gave a brief report regarding the new 911 facilities. She said she was present when they switched from the old system to the new one and it was very impressive. It was 25 years ago today that old system was installed.

Sarah said she has copies of an article in the local newspaper from Brandon Township in regards to the Headlee Amendment Reimbursement for Proposal "A" regarding the state education tax. She said a copy of the resolution is being sent to the Senators and Legislators. (See attached copy).

Jeff Cyphert reminded everyone that an investment policy has to be in place by the end of the year. If anyone needs a sample copy, please contact him. He also explained the use of credit cards for payment of water and sewer bills. He said the system is working rather well.

GUEST SPEAKER: Edie Smith, American Red Cross

Mrs. Smith said she is the disaster coordinator for the Red Cross in Genesee and Lapeer Counties. Donations are taken by calling 1-800-HELPNOW. She said she has been with the Red Cross for 19 years and is the only paid person left to help in a disaster. The Red Cross is dependent upon volunteers. So, when you are retired and have nothing to do, you can be a volunteer.

It was mandated by Congress in 1905 to take care of disasters. We cannot get rid of this responsibility if we wanted to. We help everybody, even if they have insurance. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We have volunteers who are trained to go on site with 2 member teams. We give toys as well as clothes. About 99% of the people who live in an apartment, have no insurance. We also have homeowners who have their homes paid for but don't have any insurance. Red Cross will help with food, shelter, clothing, etc. whenever a family is in need.

We are dealing with donated dollars and no government money. Whatever money we get, we use. We are very active in fundraising. We have to raise \$46,000.00 to send to Washington to help with flood victims from the hurricanes. Wherever we help, it is with food, shelter, clothing and we buy beds, bedding, refrigerators. If the disaster is covered by FEMA, we send people to them for assistance. We help with medical bills and funeral expenses and do home visits to make certain the incident is considered a disaster.

Red Cross has emergency response in Texas, Louisiana and Puerto Rico. We train our volunteers through classes. When a volunteer goes to a disaster, they are there for three weeks at a time, 7 days per week. Red Cross pays for the hotel, food and airline. We go all over the United States, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Guam and Martial Islands.

Many of the people who have had a disaster don't have a great deal to begin with. When you deal with a family like this, it makes you realize just how lucky you really are.

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Mrs. Smith explained that she was born in Czechoslovakia and raised in Germany. She has lived in the United States for 38 years and said she feels very fortunate to live here.

She said the Red Cross tries to treat everybody the same. They do not get used clothing, but will get new clothing from Meijer's, etc. so they have one new outfit. She explained there are other organizations who will also help with other household items. Mrs. Smith shared several disasters stories that she has been involved with during her career.

Ginger asked how much aid would be given should a disaster hit our area and the people had insurance.

Mrs. Smith replied the family would receive one night of lodging and one change of clothes. The Red Cross is not allowed to give out used mattresses and beds. Peerless Mattress makes a mattress for \$120.00.

Betty Shannon asked if the Red Cross has a pantry of food or give vouchers to the people.

Mrs. Smith said the volunteers go to the food bank and package up the food. Vouchers are given for perishable items.

Mrs. Smith said the volunteers come from all walks of life. Most of the volunteers are retired because they can give more of their time than those who are working.

Ginger reminded everyone our next meeting will be held on December 2, 1998 at 12:00 P.M.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:35 P.M.

Cheryl M. Ladd, CMC/AAE  
Secretary

CML