

**Grand Rapids Amateur Radio
Association Meeting Minutes**

April 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM.

President's Report

Thom shared that Hank's Wife, had sent us a card, and Thom passed it around for us to see it. He also reminded us that Cadillac is going to have their swap coming up. Thom then held up the Red Cross Volunteer sheet they had passed out several months ago. Thom then had us introduce ourselves. Thom then had the newly nominated Treasurer introduce himself: **Steven B Hau Eisen, KD8MEY**. We then held a vote to elect Steven as our Treasurer: All ayes. No Nays. Steven Hau Eisen is our new Treasurer.

Thom then asked Dave DeVos KF8QL, if he had been president and served his terms before 2003. He had. Our By-Laws state that if a person has been president before 2003, he can then become a life member of GRARA as long as he fills out a membership form each year. A nomination was made to make Dave a Life Member: it passed.

Thom then congratulated Jim, K8JH on winning the Great Lakes Division September Vhf-Uhf contest.

We have a tower climb scheduled for the Verizon tower, on May 11th. We're going to have a tower climb on our tower on May 18th. To install a cross bar for our digital radio.

V.P. Nothing to report. But Jim wanted to know when we're going to have our swap.

On-Air-Director: The Michigan QSO party is scheduled for later this April. April 20th.

Red X: Jim said they're going to have another smoke alarm install program on May 10th, from 8 am to 5pm, in Kentwood. Goal is 200 installs. More details to follow. Meet at this building at 8am. Bring your H.T. To date: over 550 lives saved. Over 1.6 million smoke alarms installed. Over 670,000 households made safer. We Hams provide the communications, while the Red Cross install the alarms. There's a liability issue, which is why they should do it, and not us. They're also looking for funds again.

Technical Report:

Steve said there are issues with coverage with the repeater and hearing noise and music being played. If you hear any problems, contact the Technical Director. The e-mail address is on the web site.

Steve has also noted that the signal from the Moline site isn't what we desire. We voted at the board meeting to move the transmitter from the Moline site to the Red Cross. We then had a general discussion on changing repeater locations, to better cover the North End. One

suggestion was to move the transmitting antenna back to the Red Cross location. The price for the new antennas are \$150.00, each. The antenna on the Hospital will be replaced and we'll install a packet system. The current 4 bay antenna was installed by Dave DeVos and crew, some 15 years ago. We then had a discussion on signal strength from different members QTH's.

Steven, KD8MEY donated \$100.00 towards the cost of a new antenna. Didn't need to vote on it. We thanked Steven.

Pete requires \$250.00 to climb the tower: Tom K8TB made a motion, 2nd by Steven KD8MEY, the motion passed.

O.B. No Old Business.

N.B. Jack, NY8D wanted to know if we wanted to order Wrist bands, or tickets. This is for the GranSwap. He's already going to order tickets for the I.R.A. we decided to order the wrist bands. Cost \$25.00: Jack said he would cover that cost.

Dave KF8QL brought up the Dayton Hamvention and there is still openings at the university site. They still have rooms available.

A motion was made to pay Jack \$100.00 for 2 spaces at the Dayton Hamvention: it passed.

Dave DeVos KF8QL needs someone to drive his Rover Vehicle down to Dayton.

Tom N8DGD, said we need people to help operate Adopt a highway this year. It will be the same section of highway we usually do. We'll meet at 6PM.

Steven KD8MEY had an announcement that KD8IML had fell and was at Saint Mary's Hospital: she has already had surgery. She is on the mend.

Treasurer's Report

Steve is performing treasurers' duties.

We had an ending balance As of February 2019. **\$3291.47**

As of the end of March, 2019, we have an ending balance of **\$3792.02**

After this meeting, Steven KD8MEY, will take over the Treasurer's duties.

Steve Provost went over the Field Day schedule: other members will operate CW.

VE: Steve Provost said he is going to be out of town next week when the VE session is scheduled take place. Phillip and his wife are going to run the session. 8 people took the exam: 3 made General 3 made tech and one took both the general and extra.

Thom made a motion to adjourn: Seconded by Rich the meeting ended at 7:35 PM

Respectively submitted
Rich K8JX Grara secretary.

After the General meeting, we had a presentation on the DMR system by K8DMR. It was a very informative presentation. For more information on DMR, you can search on DMR, on Google or other Ham related sites.