

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

Business Meeting - Mar. 4, 2022

Meeting was called to order by President Greg Stoike N8HR at 7:05 PM

The meeting started with introductions.

President's Report – Greg N8HR

Greg sent the constitution/bylaws to the officers one week ago. Will hopefully introduce at the next meeting.

Vice President's Report – Steven KD8MEY

No report.

Treasurer's Report – Dave DeVos KF8QL

Starting balance: 12,200.41

Income: 206.49, mostly memberships

Expenditures: 158.89

General fund ending balance: 7792.01

K8EIO directed fund balance: 4456.00

Total balance: 12248.01

GRARA is a 501(c)(3) charity, membership dues are tax deductible.

Tom K8TB, Jared N8CZ motioned to approve report, approved.

Secretary's Report – Dave Britten KZ8SQL

Recap of old business and new business from February. Jared N8CZ provided correction that antique radios needing restoration are from a non-member.

Justin N8FCC, Dave DeVos KV8QL motion to approve. Approved.

Liaison's Report – Joseph WD8USA

Joseph Bell WD8USA not present, Stephen AC8QE says June or July as a best-case scenario for return to Life EMS building.

Tech Director's Report – Stephen AC8QE

VEs needed for Fri., Mar. 11. Two reservations so far.

Working with Tom N8DGD and Dave DeVos KF8QL on remote access system. Should be able to handle up to 50 users. Only one can be logged in controlling the radio, but multiple users can be in listen mode. 44.0.0.0/8 IP address range. Mumble client required on PC.

Maker group is in the early stages of organizing. Details are scant at this time.

On-Air Director's Report – Jared N8CZ

Field Day plans proceeding, still planning to use Ravines Center.

Off-Air Director's Report – Jared N8CZ

Officers discussed possible social, non-radio gatherings and events. Discussing some make-and-take events for members - Yagi antennas, offset attenuators, simple dipoles, etc. **Looking for people and funding for these events.**

GVSU Report – Justin N8FCC

Field Day proposal has not yet been sent to GVSU - it's in final revisions and will be sent by Mar. 11.

Trustee's Report – Tom N8DGD

Looking for a place to do a CW class. Practice options: Thursday-night simplex/CW net, VBand

Director At Large's Report – Lisa W8LSA

Francis Thompson KD8QXC had surgery today, Tom Hansen says he did real well, and will be in the hospital for a few days. Tom Behler KB8TYJ doing a lot better after surgery and got out of the house for 2 hours yesterday.

Survey was advertised via groups.io and Facebook, and ran from Feb. 5-24. Lisa presented a summary of the results.

Top club priorities as chosen by members: 1. Communication and connecting with the general public. 2. Stewardship and maintaining equipment 3. Education, service, membership (tie)

Respondents gave free-form answers about where they would like to see GRARA in 1, 5, or 10 years, how they would like to be able to describe GRARA to others, best big-ticket purchase for the club, activities to participate in, and so on.

Lisa is going to try to make the survey results presentation available on the web site.

Followup comments Justin recommends improving the curb appeal of the GRARA clubhouse.

Not much relationship with Kent County emergency agencies.

Would be nice to have an anonymous feedback form on the web site for future comments outside of official surveys.

Old Business

Chris Longcore's informal contest had a good turnout last month. March VHF repeater contest will be similar to Feb. Additional bonus points for joining the Tuesday club net. HF challenge will be DX-oriented. 160 through 6 m, CW or phone, 100 W max. Can mix bands and modes. Only count calls to CQ Contest Calls if you submit a log to the contest. Rules will be posted to Facebook.

Feb. winners VHF Repeater Contest - Tom Hansen N8DGD, 70 contacts HF Most States Contest - Tom Hansen N8DGD, 12 states

Stephen AC8QE found an Air BnB listing for Hamvention for 8 people. \$1082 total, about 20 minutes from Hamvention.

Jack NY8D has submitted everything for Hamvention spot. Ham van will be there.

Dave DeVos visited ARRL presentation in Florida. Heavy emphasis on emergency communication and passing traffic via Winlink.

Get out of the Cabin Dinner at Hudsonville Pizza Ranch, Mar. 12 at 2:00 PM.

New Business

GVSU inviting any members to Big Sable Lighthouse on May 14. Operation will be a little longer than 24 hours. RSVP to Jared ahead of time so we can let them know how many are coming. Setup is Friday night, staying through Sunday morning.

Jack NY8D recommending getting the GRARA hamfest listed on the ARRL calendar.

Greg is looking into GRARA t-shirts and other similar merchandise.

Motion to adjourn at 8:26 PM. Meeting adjourned. Minutes prepared by GRARA Secretary Dave Britten KZ8SQL.