

Big Bend DART Meeting- March 16, 2008 Leon County Animal Control Building

Six members were in attendance: Stuart Abbey, Cavell Kyser, Nicole Lilly, Leslie Long, Laura Morse, and Richard Ziegler.

Upcoming Trainings

First Aid/CPR training will be held at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital on March 29th. The class is free and certification cards will be provided upon completion. For further information see <http://www.bigbenddart.org/meeting%20flyers/1stAidCPR.pdf>.

Animal Decontamination and Hazardous Materials Training will be held April 26th in Apalachicola at the Franklin County Emergency Management Center. It will consist of classroom and practical. The local shelter will provide the animals that will be used during the hands-on session. The training costs \$10 per person. Further information is available at <http://www.bigbenddart.org/meeting%20flyers/AnimalDeconHazmatTraining.pdf>.

ICS 300 will be offered June 12-14 in Tallahassee by the Florida State Agriculture Response Team (SART). This is a free training. The details and registration form are available at <http://www.fldart.org/events.htm>.

A DART training will be held in Gainesville in June. Information is available at http://www.humanesocietyu.org/workshops_and_classes/disaster_animal_response_team.html.

Upcoming DART Meetings

The following speakers are planned for Big Bend DART meetings this year: Susan Sentman will talk about snakes and reptiles sheltering needs and Pat Simmons will tell us how DART can assist Southeast K-9 Search and Rescue. In addition, a tour of the State Emergency Operations Center will be conducted during a meeting.

Elections of Board Members

Stuart said he is unable to continue to be on the Board. Richard said he had not heard whether Karla Brandt is able to remain on the Board. All other Board members said they are interested in continuing their duties. Nicole and Darla Wolak both said they are interested in becoming members.

We agreed the following people will be on the Big Bend DART Board: Cavell, Richard, Nicole, Laura M., Barbara Barnett, Joanie Batten, Laura Bevan, Haven Cook, Bill Schmitt, and Mary Ellen Zydell.

In addition, we elected officers. Richard motioned that Haven Cook remain as President, Stuart seconded the motion, and we all said aye. Cavell nominated Joanie Batten as Vice-President, Stuart seconded the nomination, and we all said aye. Laura M. nominated Nicole

for Treasurer, Cavell seconded the nomination, and all agreed. We all agreed that Bill Schmitt will remain as the Communications Officer. Richard motioned for Laura M. to stay as Secretary and all agreed.

Annual Dues

Richard collected dues from those present. Leslie did not need to pay dues because she had paid for 6 years' worth of dues in 2007. Annual dues cost \$10 and should be paid at the next meeting or via mail. Dues are payable to Big Bend DART, Inc, 310 N. Dellview Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32303.

Miscellaneous

Approximately \$180 was raised at the Big Bend DART estate sale. The wet, dreary day probably discouraged people from turning out to the sale.

Stuart mentioned that we should make contact with the Interim director at American Red Cross to make him more familiar with our organization and discuss our agreement.

Nicole said she has met with Rasmus Praestholm to discuss his taking control of managing the Big Bend DART website. However, other members of the technology committee need to meet with him. The committee includes Nicole, Karla Brandt and Bill Schmitt. Nicole has tried to arrange a meeting with the other committee members, but have not received a response for them.

Richard said he will try to arrange a catch pole training later this year. In addition, he mentioned that DART members are encouraged to take some time during a weekday to ride around with Leon County Animal Control Officers to observe animal-catching techniques and other work they do. To arrange this, email Richard at ZieglerR@leoncountyfl.gov.

Next Meeting

We discussed what days are best to hold meetings. We thought that a Friday, Sunday, or Wednesday might be the best day. We decided to send an email to members to check when they would like to meet in April. Laura M. said she will compose an email asking members if they would prefer to meet on April 18 at 6 pm, April 20 at 4 pm or, April 23 at 6 pm. The email will be sent to Bill Schmitt who will distribute the request to members. Replies will be sent to Haven Cook.