

**Habitat for Humanity of Merced County  
Minutes April 14th, 2009 Meeting #183  
Gateway Community Church**

President: Michelle Paloutzian present  
Secretary: Genny M Mesa excused  
Volunteer/Finance Chair: Patti Houbein present  
Public Information Chair: Bill Sanford present  
Family Selection/Partnership: Pete Delacruz Present  
Construction Chair: Lyle Allen present  
Member at Large: Fred Pillsbury present  
Member at Large: Diane Bair absent

Vice President: George Gallaher present  
Treasurer: Hilda Miranda excused  
Administrative Chair: Donna Hall excused  
Church Relations Chair: Jan Sorge present  
Fund Raising Chair: Pat Shay excused  
Site Selection Chair: Jim Tolladay present  
Member at Large: Kathy Upson excused

MSC: Motion, second, carried

**Call to order:** 7:06 p.m. by President Michelle Paloutzian.  
A quorum was present.

**Minutes:** Minutes for March will be approved in May.

**Devotion:**

Jan Sorge: "Law of the garbage truck."

**Treasurer's Report**

**Committee Reports:**

**Public Information Report:**

**Administration:**

Bill reported that Habitat for Humanity International has sent a check in the amount of \$1,786.00 as our portion of a law suit in which the attorneys agreed to give the proceeds to affiliates in California.

The current newsletter is at the printers and will be mailed as soon as possible.

Bill reported that the share of stock donated previously has declined in value at about \$200.00. Lyle will investigate what is needed to sell the stock. Minutes from a previous meeting reflect that Michelle is authorized to sign in behalf of the organization in order to complete this transaction.

Fernando Bravo spoke to the habitat for Humanity affiliate in Mariposa, CA.

Lily Hamaguchi will be writing thank you notes to our donors as Ruth Darlington has asked to step down from that position.

Lyle is waiting for a response about the visually impaired group's handicapped ramp.

Lyle is currently working on weed abatement on the two lots in South Merced.

The California State Board of Equalization sent a letter stating some corrections needed in order for our current tax return to be accepted. Patti is working on this and will keep the board posted on her progress. If we need to reword our articles of incorporation, we can use the services of a retired attorney that Bill knows.

Stay at Home Tea: The board needs to make a decision as to the number of Stay at Home Tea letters to be mailed. When Genny Mesa returns from her vacation she will contact the post office and get a final determination on the cost of postage and a decision will be made at that time.

### **Construction Report:**

Lyle is working on weed Abatement on the two lots held for future construction. The fencing on the current building site is close to completion. There is a temporary power pole on site. And we are waiting on the plans to be approved. We will use the same forms to pour both foundations on the site. The segments of the form will be numbered and reused in a mirror image for the second home. The Valley Community School will trench and set the forms. Lyle will contact Mr. Hightower when we have approved plans and they will jointly develop a plan for framing.

### **Site Selection:**

Jim reported that we still need a plumbing page for the plans. Lyle volunteered to draw in the piping locations and give them to the architect. Michelle will have the landscaping and irrigation plans completed by this weekend.

### **Family Selection Report:**

Pete reported on his attendance at a meeting in Modesto. His impression of the Stanislaus affiliate was quite favorable. Pete asked to have the flyer and most materials translated into Spanish. There was discussion about translation into Hmong. The group felt that this may need to come at a later date. The slide show presentation still needs to be completed in Spanish. Patti will have volunteers with cookies and she will seek volunteers to interpret and translate. Lyle has spoken with the Pastor of Sacred Heart Church and the pastor would like some flyers in Spanish.

### **Fundraising Report:**

Pat was not present and the business plan will be presented at the next meeting.

### **Church Relations Report:**

Jan has sent information for churches to include in their monthly bulletins. Jan spoke at the United Methodist Church in Merced and received favorable response. She gave Patti a list of potential volunteers including a local caterer who is willing to donate food to habitat for Humanity events. Jan reported on a community garden and presented the idea

of using our vacant lots as a place for such gardens. George recalled a negative event concerning a community garden. And Michelle stated that the First Christian Church had to close theirs because of insurance issues. The consensus was that this is a good idea but maybe now isn't the right time to have a community garden on our property.

**Volunteers Report:**

Patti is working on getting volunteers to help with our family selection event. She has been contacted by a group at Merced College and Michelle has some administrative chores for the group to complete.

**Nomination Committee Report:**

George has been in contact with some individuals who have shown limited interest in becoming board members.

Adjournment : Fred moved to close – Lyle 2<sup>nd</sup> and all in favor. Meeting Adjourned @ 8:17.m.

Respectfully Submitted by George Gallaher for Genny Mesa