

# Habitat for Humanity of Merced County Board Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2014

Meeting Location: 2842 Wainwright Ave. Merced, CA

Home of Jan & Larry Sorge

Meeting # 250

President (Administration Chair): Jan Sorge,	present
Vice President: Michelle Paloutzian,	present
Secretary (Public Relations Chair): George Gallaher,	present
Treasurer: Patti Houbein,	present
Construction Chair: Lyle Allen,	present
Family Selection/Partnership Chair: Nellie Venegas,	present
Finance: Donna Hall	present
Site Selection: April Gill	excused
Member at Large: Pete Delacruz,	excused
Member at Large: Fred Pillsbury,	present
Member at Large: Brittany Oakes,	excused
Member at Large: Sean Arnold,	excused

6:31 p.m. Call to order Jan Sorge, President

**Guests:** No guests.

**Devotion:** Patti read an Advent devotion from HfHI. Give to others according to God's Word. Ask him to help others. Don't publically announce your giving. Thank God for our gifts. Pray for others and put faith into action.

**Excused absences:** Sean Arnold, Pete Delacruz, April Gill

**November minutes:** Amended to include Project thirteen late. Minutes accepted as amended.

**Financial report:** Patti reported that the financial statements include a write-down on our lots from \$30,000.00 to \$15,000.00. The property tax statement for project 13 was mailed to the partner family who failed to forward it to Patti. Patti will make the payment tomorrow morning and will make sure that the statement is delivered to the proper address in the future.

**Administration:** The annual planning day will be January 31 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the St. Paul Lutheran Church Outreach Ministry Center. Board members are to think of specific jobs they wish to complete during the upcoming year and to come up with proposed goals or questions for discussion at the meeting.

Discussion on Stanislaus Habitat Board Meeting: Jan shared her perception of the operation of the HfHS affiliate. Jan had questions about the asset to debt ratio of the affiliate. Her perception was that they were heavily indebted. Jan explained that the affiliate was in negotiations with a local winery that wants to buy six habitat homes built on

land the winery had previously sold to the affiliate. It seems that the HfHS affiliate stands to lose money on the transaction. Michelle pointed out that it is possible the debt load is sustainable and that some of the debt may be short term loans relating to rehabilitation projects. Lyle stated that he's afraid the larger affiliate would dwarf the smaller affiliate and our identity would be completely lost in a short amount of time. Lyle further stated that our affiliate conforms closer to the Fuller's vision for the organization and that, while it is nice to build several homes a year, something is lost when the organization becomes a large enterprise. Patti stated that it is possible, if they are rehabilitating homes in Merced County and have a ReStore here, the lines between the two organizations get blurred in the mind of the public and we are seen as the same organization to the general public. The consensus of the board members assembled is to wait and see if the merger offer is sincere or if it fades into the background as time goes by. Several board members stated they would like more information about the stance of HfHI on mergers and how common such deals are. Jan will investigate having someone from HfHI's merger Department come to a future meeting. If we are unable to get a merger expert, perhaps we can get a regional representative to come and answer our questions on this important topic.

**Public Information:** The newsletter will be published in January or February 2015. The affiliate received a check for \$1,500.00 from the Hatti Givens Testamentary Trust without a formal request from the affiliate. George will look into the Merced Foundation Grant program.

**Construction:** Dale Van den Boom met a plumbing contractor who volunteered his staff to plumb our current build on a rainy day when the crew would be unable to work on their regular projects. The crew from Creative Plumbing worked on the house one day and all the rough plumbing is completed. The windows for the home will be here December 29<sup>th</sup>. The crew is currently working on the electrical portion of the project. The remaining siding will be installed after the windows are secured to the walls. Lyle will provide a list of persons and groups who have donated time and/or materials to the current build. George will acknowledge these groups and people in the next newsletter.

**Family Services:** Nellie will work with Rosa to develop a plan that will lead her to completing her sweat equity hours before her home is completed.

**Church Relations:** Jan is sending information to churches on a regular basis.

**Volunteers:** No report

### **Other Business**

Donna suggested a fund raising activity whereby volunteers would wash dogs at a local wash and wag establishment on a specified date with the proprietor donating a portion of the day's proceeds to our affiliate. All participants in the event would be eligible to participate in a drawing for a handmade dog house. Jan will look into the insurance

liability of such a fund raiser. Lyle added that the building crew could set aside enough materials to build a nice dog house.

Michelle reported that a partner family member had contacted her about refinancing her home or selling or subletting her home to a family member. Jan will invite the partner and her family member to the next board meeting.

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:00p.m.

George Gallaher, Secretary

Habitat for Humanity of Merced County, Inc.  
Board Meeting Sign-in December 15, 2014

- 1 George Sallaker
- 2 Michelle Pilonis
- 3 Patti Hankin
- 4 Danna Hall
- 5 FRED T. PILSBURY
- 6 Jan Lorge
- 7 Nellie VENEGAS
- 8 Lyle Allen
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 \_\_\_\_\_
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- 16 \_\_\_\_\_

**Calendar:**

January 14 – Wednesday, 7 – 8 p.m. Volunteer Orientation, St. Paul Lutheran Church Outreach Ministry Center Conference Room, 2916 N. McKee Rd. Merced

January 19 – Monday, 6:30 p.m. Board meeting – St. Paul Lutheran Church Outreach Ministry Center – conference room, 2916 N. McKee Rd. Merced  
Devotion:

January 31 – Annual Planning Day – 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.

February 16, Monday, 6:30 p.m. Board meeting - St. Paul Lutheran OMC  
Devotion:

February – Flapjack Fundraiser?

March 16, Monday, 6:30 p.m. Board meeting – St. Paul Lutheran OMC  
Devotion:

April 11, Saturday, 8-2 p.m. Vendors, Rummage Sale, St. Paul Parking Lot  
Need Chairperson – contact vendors, etc.

April 20, Monday, 6:30 p.m. Board meeting – St. Paul Lutheran OMC  
Devotion:

May 18, Monday, 6:30 p.m. Board meeting – St Paul Lutheran OMC  
Devotion: