

GMDBC General Meeting November 12, 2024

Safety Meeting

Meeting Commenced 06:30 PM. 108 members were in attendance. Cheryl Moran asked all veterans to stand up to be recognized and thanked for their service, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Cheryl then asked for any new paddlers to raise their hand and welcomed them. New member packets were given out. Marguerite Lamond asked what a member packet was and Cheryl explained the history of giving out new members packets and why we are starting the practice again.

Secretary's Minutes; motion to approve by Chuck Stevens, 2nd by Mary DeFranco. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report by Steve Augustine, membership now at 408. Motion to approve by Chuck Stevens, 2nd by Sharon Kane.

President Report; Cheryl spoke about our budget for boat repairs and the expenses we've had and noted that the budget reports are always posted on the GMDBC website. It was brought up that the GM needs a new volunteer to head the boat maintenance committee.

Cheryl then expressed her appreciation for the inter-team cooperation being shown by the teams who have all transitioned to Lake Miona for paddle practice and also to the volunteers who handled moving the boats from one storage unit to another.

The next topic was the fact that The Villages will be buying one boat and trailer for Eastport. The GMDBC donated the tippy 10 man boat to the K2N dragon boat club in Hernando that had lost one of their boats to the recent hurricanes. It was then brought up that the Lake Sumter Rodeo will be postponed until 2025 due to the conditions at Lake Sumter. The water levels at Lake Sumter are currently being observed to be able to talk with The Villages about our return to paddling on the lake. Grand Masters volunteers will be starting to work on the beach erosion under the storage box at Lake Sumter to stabilize the box.

Vice-President report; As VP, Donnie Lies is in charge of safety for the GMDBC and started by talking about the safety instructions that should be given by every steer person at the start of practice. He illustrated a scenario of a boat flipping over during practice and the steps that should be taken to get out from under the boat, inflating your PFD, and ensuring everyone is safe. Donnie followed up with a demonstration of how to inflate a fanny pack-style PFD, why it should be worn properly in front of your body, how to check the CO2 cartridge condition and how to change the cartridge and check the condition of the inflatable part of the PFD.

Donnie then explained his B-Ready Task Force, suggesting that it would need a chair person and a group of volunteer team members who have medical training/experience to create procedures to be used on the boats in case of a medical emergency. Donnie then passed out the new packets of freebies that will be given to new members of the club.

In reference to safety issues, an Eastport Sun Dragon member asked if there will be an AED in place when the venue opens up. Cheryl M indicated we will discuss the purchase of an AED for that location with TV.

Old Business; Senior D teams at the CCWC at Weiland, CA; teams attending; Warriors/Sparta 70 and Blackheart. The teams brought home the gold in the Senior D categories and were thanked by Cheryl for representing the GMDBC.

Sports articles; Donnie spoke about working with a Daily Sun reporter to have a regular newspaper column outlining events and information about the sport of dragon boat racing in TV. He then raffled off 12 CO2 cartridges for PFDs.

Steve Augustine brought up that there are a few GMDBC shirts available for sale to members at a cost of \$40 and that the shirts are available through Custom Apparel.

Rae Ann Bethel was then invited up to speak by Cheryl and spoke about the Girl Scout Alumni organization's annual collection of pajamas and books for local low-income children in our area, mentioning that 100% of all donations goes to the children.

Tabled items;

Meeting ended at 07:30 PM, followed by a photo of the board members and a panoramic video of the members who attended the meeting.