

GCPFS Monthly Meeting
10 a.m.
Wednesday, October 22, 2003
Mississippi Baptist Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

Present: Charles Barron, Ron Cain, Joe Cole, Ray Gildea, Walter Howell, April Luke, Tracy Stebbins, and Cathy Ward. Guests: Mary F. Waters (MHSAA), Wanda Magers (MSDH), and Shanta Davis (Governor's Office).

Joe Cole opened the meeting with a brief welcome. Members reviewed minutes from the September meeting and they were accepted by a voice vote.

A current bank balance of \$2,647.28 was reported (as of 9/31/03). Tammy reported two checks written in October that have not cleared the bank: \$68.00 for one year's P.O. box rent and \$200 deposit to the Friends of the Mansion. Tracy reported that funds will be coming from North MS Medical Center, to be used for Fitnessgram testing in Tupelo area.

Shanta Davis represented Kelly Riley with the Governor's Office. Shanta reported that member nominations are still being evaluated but a list should be finalized by November. She reiterated Gov. Musgrove's desire to work with GCPFS to promote physically-fit Mississippians and noted that the Governor has the 12/16 reception on his calendar and hopes to attend. Shanta expressed interest in promoting the Kids' Mile Fun Run, and Cathy agreed to take her application forms.

Response to the Physical Education Certification program has been very impressive. Shane McNeill (DOE PE Coordinator) and Cathy completed mailout of nomination forms with cover letters from Shane and Joe to all public school superintendents. Thirty-six nominations have been received and more are expected. Cathy reported numerous phone calls from schools requesting more time and the deadline was extended to Oct. 31. Joe, Ron, Tammy and Shane agreed to serve as the evaluation committee; members are invited to contact Joe if they wish to participate. Joe hopes to complete evaluations by the November meeting (11/12).

Worksite wellness: Application forms have been approved and mailed throughout the state. Copies have been distributed to members. Discussion centered on how to increase involvement by re-creating the program. April noted that Iowa has a good worksite program, "Lighten Up Iowa" that might provide ideas for our use. Wanda pointed out that the American Cancer Society (ACS) begun a statewide pilot project on worksite wellness and suggested we contact Tara Newsom for more information. Cathy recently spoke with Tara about a potential partnership between ACS and GCPFS and will report at future meetings on developments. Joe noted that more can be done and that we need to study a way for year-round promotion of worksite wellness.

Fund-raising: The biggest annual expense is the reception at The Governor's Mansion and discussion centered on how to cut costs and expand sponsorship. One way to cut costs is to change caterer and/or limit menu. Cathy and Tammy agreed to develop a cost analysis of past receptions along with recommendations for savings and present at the November meeting. They'll also check with Cora concerning mansion requirements for reception. Joe volunteered to check with Kelly to see if sponsorship could be arranged through the Governor's Office. Ron will explore pharmaceuticals for sponsorship, too. Creda suggested exploring in-kind sponsorship, especially for reception (ex.: beverages), and agreed to discuss this with Chief Martin (with Joe's help). Ron, Joe, and Creda volunteered to explore options for sponsorship of the reception and will report at the November meeting.

Reception at The Governor's Mansion: Cathy has met with Cora and submitted application (with \$200 deposit for maximum of 100 guests) for reception to be held Dec. 16, 2003. Cora noted that any new caterer will have to undergo a security check by the Governor's Office before they can be accepted. There is no security check needed if we keep same caterer as we've used in past years (Tay). Ron will serve as

photographer and Tammy will be responsible for music/entertainment. Cathy will handle invitations.

P.A. Report Card: While members agreed that another report card is needed, they recommended a complete overhaul of both content and style. Alan Penman has been out of the office recently but Cathy expects to begin working with him within the week and welcomed ideas from members. Joe suggested that report card include a section on parental involvement, and Coach Epps noted that a listing of commission members and contact information would be helpful. Paula McBey noted one way to provide schools with incentive to improve P.E. is for commission members to visit and evaluate schools. Creda added that commission could monitor schools and make reports to the commission. Charles Barron pointed out that school districts already hire fitness consultants to help teachers but are often hampered by lack of funds or manpower. He noted that school administrators need to give same emphasis to quality physical education as they do to academics (idea: include P.E. on school report card, just as with English, math, etc.). Shane McNeill (DOE PE coordinator), while validating positive aspects of current P.E. teaching, noted that many P.E. teachers need help with obtaining adequate CEU's. After much discussion, it was agreed that Cathy and Alan would present an update on the P.E. report card at the next meeting.

Coach Epps noted that there is still a problem for GCPFS with name recognition and that this affects fund-raising opportunities. He is still working on a potential golf tournament and believes it can happen in 2004, provided GCPFS can "up" its public profile. Joe agreed and noted that he and Creda are working on it. All agreed that a website is vital; avenues being explored focus on links to existing sites such as the Governor's Office or MSDH. Joe and Shanta agreed to discuss this further and report at the next meeting.

Kids' Mile Fun Run: Cathy reported that the MS Track Club has agreed to sponsor Kids Mile. They will continue to provide services for race (registration, finish line, trophies, refreshments at a cost of approximately \$1,000) as they have done in the past and will also cover costs for t-shirts (approximately \$500). The Kids' Mile will take place at the Waterways Experiment Station/MC Cross-Country site in Clinton on November 15. Cathy reported more than 40 applications have already been received and more are expected.

In other business, Ron reported on community leadership training in Hattiesburg. Last year, the group revamped the Kemper Park Zoo playground to be disability-accessible. This year, they're developing a baseball field for children with disabilities which will be the first of its kind in MS. He noted that this group is one of many statewide civic groups focusing on community fitness needs. In other reports, Cathy and Joyce Anderson (Senior Olympics) displayed at Senior Day at the State Fair (10/8) as well as partnering on a presentation on physical fitness at the Council on Aging's annual conference (10/15). Cathy also participated in the P.E. Curriculum Reevaluation conference in Jackson (10/20-21) and represented the GCPFS on the National Health Education Week (10/20-26) planning committee that developed a related press release and proclamation from the Governor. The Governor's Cup 5 Mile Run/Walk was held on Saturday, October 18, with approximately 350 participants. Mary Lohrenz, who works with Cora Gee at The Governor's Mansion, represented the Governor's Office. The GCPFS agreed to donate \$200 towards costs of refreshments at the Governor's Cup; Cathy is still negotiating with MTC about this and will report on final costs (hopefully, less) at the next meeting. AARP was acknowledged and thanked for its sponsorship of Governor's Cup and GCPFS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2003. The meeting will be held at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. A notice will be sent to all members prior to the meeting, and members are requested to respond by deadline.