B.E.S.T. Minutes

May 8, 2014

**1. Call to Order -** 8:30 a.m.

**2. Introductions**

**3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes – Jeanne Kearby**

Motion was made by Wendy Warden and seconded by Georgeann Duberstein to approve the March 13, 2014 and April 10, 2014 Minutes. Approved by acclamation.

**4. Treasurer’s Report – Pete Molidor**

Tabled

**5. Speaker - Ricky Bueno, Frontline Street Interventions**

Ricky Bueno presented the outreach work Frontline Street Intervention is doing in the community. In Lake County there are over 3000 gang members. There is an overwhelming need for intervention and prevention. Ricky spoke of the poor choices he made as a young man in order to fit in and the results of those choices. Paroled in 1999, he began his personal journey to form a group to help others move away from the gang life. Thus in 2001 Frontline Street Intervention was formed as a not-for-profit organization. The mission is to help young men and women move away from gang life. They do a lot of outreach in the community by going where kids are and arranging events to engage young people in positive activities. The activities range from basketball games, Low Rider events, Back to School functions and a component of life-skills. They also look for opportunities for the young men and women in the group find work. They go where the kids are and accept all. They proudly note that there has not been any Gang on Gang altercations in 15 years. In addition they have a spiritual group called the Holy Homies that meet and are involved with activities.

They need a place to meet because they are getting so big, funding for the removal of gang tattoos, clothing for their clothing trade-in program or gift cards. They are looking for a place to call home.

**6. Reports of Standing Committees**

 a. By-Laws – Jim DiDonato noted his final report should be presented in June.

 b. Membership – Wendy Warden, Chair, recruited members for her committee. Sandra and Elaina volunteered.

 c. Public Awareness – Georgeann Duberstein, Chair, noted that advertising meeting were continuing. In addition Kathy Myers mentioned they are seeking radio guests for May 22 and

 29. Frontline offered to do one and Tom Weber offered to do one on property taxes.

 d. Special Projects – Community Empowerment Grants – Shirley Christian, Chair. There awarded $500.00 to an ELL trip to Camp Timberline for trust building activities. Shirley is looking for help on the Grant Committee.

**7. Reports of Special Committees**

 a. Kindergarten Readiness Committee – Judy Armstrong, Lead. May 13, 9:00 am at Panera is the next committee meeting planning for Another Sip on June 22. In addition, community agencies with involvement in pre-school activities are meeting to talk about a preschool conference. There is tremendous potential. She also proudly noted that there will be 4 Head Start classrooms starting in the fall in Round Lake.

 b. Chili Supper – Kathy Myers, Lead, noted the Chili Supper even will be October 20th. Our second meeting is May 13th@7:30. Let Kathy know if you want to be involved.

**8. Check In** – members told those present of upcoming events. Event information brought by members is available at the sign in table or were distributed while they were speaking.

**9. Next Meeting – June 12, 2014**

**10. Adjournment –** 10:01 a.m.