



Monroe County Chapter
Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Radisson Hotel, Bloomington IN
June 17, 2008
6:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Welcome

Marcus Debro, Chapter Chair, welcomed guests to the Monroe County Chapter of the American Red Cross Annual Meeting and Dinner. He asked Father Bob Keller, St. Paul's Catholic Center, to give the invocation. Following Fr. Keller's invocation, guests enjoyed a dinner of salad, chicken, pasta, broccoli, rolls, and cherry cobbler.

Business Meeting

Marcus Debro called the business meeting to order, and offered his thoughts on the Red Cross helping people at their time of need. During a time in his life when his family needed a military family member to come home, he turned to the Red Cross and the chapter military caseworkers took care of the emergency communications. Marcus praised the entire chapter board, executive director Sue Gulley, staff and volunteers for their dedication to the humanitarian mission of the Red Cross.

Marcus thanked Barry Lessow, executive director of the United Way of Monroe County, for coming to the annual meeting, and offered him the opportunity to make remarks to guests. Barry thanked the Monroe County Chapter for leading the community in its disaster response, praised staff and volunteers for their great work throughout the year, and stated that he considered the Red Cross a key partner with the United Way in the Monroe County community.

Chairman Debro asked Ben Niehoff, Board Secretary, to come forward to present the minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting, copies of which were provided to guests. Bill Ramos moved, Jeremiah Young seconded, that the minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Debro asked Steven Hunt, Board Treasurer, to come forward to present the year to date financials through May 31, 2008. Before Steve gave his report, Marcus thanked Steve for his excellent service as Treasurer for several years, saying that he was instrumental in keeping the Chapter's financial reporting on track through some difficult years. Steve then gave a summary of the year's financial activities, and reminded members that since our annual meeting is held in June each year the financials are not year-end audited figures. The year-end audit will be available on the chapter's website.

Chairman Debro asked Ben Niehoff, Board Secretary, to come forward to present the slate of officers and new members for the FY09 term, copies of which were provided to guests. Ben asked if there were any nominations from the floor to add to the slate. Steve Hunt nominated Karen Stevens, from Rogers Group, Inc., and Matt Saba, from Hilliard Lyons Investments. There being no other nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. Ben called for approval of the slate as amended. Chris Quackenbush moved, Katie Metz seconded, that the slate be approved. Motion carried unanimously. (See Full Slate and FY09 Board members listed below.)

Chairman Debro asked Sue Gulley to give her annual report to the board, and commended her on her two years of service to the chapter which has included many positive improvements to the organization. (Sue's remarks in their entirety are shown below.)

Chairman Debro made a special presentation to Bill Ramos, a board member who has served 15 years on the Chapter Board, and who has been a Red Cross certified aquatics leader for 27 years. (Marcus's remarks about Bill Ramos are shown in their entirety below.) Marcus and Sue presented Bill with a commemorative Red Cross desk clock. In addition, special appreciation was given to outgoing board members Bob Althausser, Chris Bomba, Katie Metz, Debra Reynolds, and Mark Webb, for their dedicated service to the Red Cross.

Following door prize drawings, Marcus gave special thanks to Bloomington High School North Jazz Ensemble and Father Bob Keller for joining the annual meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7:35 p.m.

Meeting Attendees:

Marcus Debro, Cathy Duckett, Ben Niehoff, Steve Hunt, Sue Gulley, Chris Quackenbush, Katie Metz, Peter Nestingen, Jane Laughlin, Pat Kingsbury, Karen Mikesell, John Mikesell, Dan Harris, Mike Allen, Bill Ramos, Jeremiah Young, Betsy Trotzke, Mike Trotzke, June Taylor, Donald Moore, Cathy Hendricks, Pam Brown, Conor Burns, Don Creek, Debbie Terrill, Father Bob Keller, Barry Lessow, Britni Saunders

**Congratulations to our New Officers and Members for American Red Cross Monroe
County Chapter FY09 Board of Directors**

OFFICERS: The following individuals were elected for one-year terms.

Chair.....**Marcus Debro FY2009***
Vice Chair**Christopher Quackenbush FY2010**
Secretary**Ben Niehoff FY2011***
Treasurer**Tim Brown FY2011***

▶ **Directors:** The following individuals were elected for their first three-year terms.

Dale Blubaugh	FY2011
Dan Harris	FY2011
Pat Kingsbury (lifetime member)	FY2011
Tom Myers	FY2011
Dave O'Guinn	FY2011
Matt Saba	FY2011
Karen Stevens	FY2011
Caroline Tattersall, IU student representative	FY2011

▶ **Directors:** The following individuals were elected for their second three-year term.

Tim Brown	FY2011*
Ben Niehoff	FY2011*

▶ **Directors:** The following individuals were elected for their third three-year term.

Steven Hunt	FY2011**
Elizabeth Roos	FY2011**

**American Red Cross Monroe County Chapter
FY2009 Board Roster**

1. Marcus Debro, Chair	FY2009*
2. Chris Quackenbush, V. Chair	FY2010
3. Ben Niehoff, Sec.	FY2011*
4. Tim Brown, Treas.	FY2011*
5. Mike Allen	FY2010
6. Dale Blubaugh	FY2011
7. Christina Divine	FY2009
8. Timothy Frazier	FY2010
9. Dan Harris	FY2011
10. Steve Hunt	FY2011**
11. Pat Kingsbury (Lifetime member)	FY2011
12. Jane Laughlin	FY2010
13. Bob May (Lifetime member)	FY2010
14. Karen Mikesell	FY2009
15. Tom Myers	FY2011
16. Dave O'Guinn	FY2011
17. Elizabeth Roos	FY2011**
18. Matt Saba	FY2011
19. Chip Snively	FY2010
20. Karen Stevens	FY2011
21. Caroline Tattersall, IU student representative	FY2011
22. Betsy Trotzke	FY2010
23. Jeremiah Young	FY2009

Sue Gulley, Executive Director

Remarks at Monroe County Chapter of the American Red Cross Annual Meeting

June 17, 2008

As you all know, this has been a year of rebuilding our local chapter's human and material resources with attention to future sustainability. We have reached and exceeded our financial development goals throughout this year, first with our Book Fair, which raised \$54,136 from the Fair and another \$4,354 year to date through online sales. And for our second Heroes campaign we had an ambitious goal of \$50,000, and raised over \$73,000 through the efforts and generosity of hundreds of people in our community, many of whom were new to our Red Cross family. We are very close to achieving another goal, a benchmark we set two years ago when I started here- having 500 subscribers to our Lifeline medical alarm program. Despite a volatile year for our limited investment funds held in reserve, for which we suffered losses, we expect a positive cash flow at year-end this month.

This year as we were exceeding our financial and resource development goals, our national organization was taking aggressive measures to stem a 200 million dollar operating deficit. By June 30th over 1,000 Red Cross employees had been laid off, and 11 regional service area offices were closed. A new CEO was chosen this spring, Gail McGovern, whose experience has been in finance and financial development for Fortune 500 companies. We wish Gail well in meeting the daunting challenges that lie ahead. Beginning last July, new Regional Chapters were charged with oversight responsibilities of all community chapters. Throughout the year, we've been part of several regional and statewide meetings to improve Red Cross response and coordination in disasters. We have already begun a collaborative effort to launch a regional direct marketing program among seven chapters in our region this July. We hope this pilot project will streamline back office functions and help us to be more responsive to our Red Cross donors.

What all these efforts come down to is building our response capability. Are we equipped and ready to mobilize for our humanitarian mission when our communities need us? This was put to the test over Memorial Day weekend when the Indiana tornado and flooding disaster began. We first responded with mutual aid to Brown/Bartholomew Chapter after a tornado ripped through an isolated residential area outside Nashville the night of June 2nd. We were there for 2 days helping with mobile feeding with our national Emergency Response Vehicle and local disaster volunteers. Our own flash flooding in Monroe County followed that week, as we helped residents of basement apartments near downtown who were flooded out. We then opened an emergency shelter in Spencer the morning of June 7th, after torrential rains stranded residents and overwhelmed first responders in Owen County. We sent teams out in Monroe County to do damage assessment, which is still in process. This will result in our being able to provide direct financial assistance to county residents in need

due to flooding. By Tuesday of last week, Red Cross stood up a National Disaster Relief Operation, DR 816-08, to bring resources to Hoosiers hit hard by flooding and tornadoes. As of today, the Red Cross is handling 11 major disaster relief operations and has announced that its national disaster fund is depleted. Clearly, we will be taxed and strained with our financial and human resources in the summer ahead due to these unprecedented events.

I want to read an email we just received today from a resident at our Spencer emergency shelter:

During the recent flood episode in Spencer, Indiana 47460, My domestic partner and I were instantly homeless. If it was not for the red cross I do not know what we would have done. We moved to Spencer, Indiana from Indianapolis 2 years ago and we have no family here in Spencer. I want to thank you with all of my heart and soul for the good things you do, and to personally Thank You for taking care of us. Disasters hapen so fast and they hapen to you at a moments notice. We are not the kind of people to ask for help easily. We are the ones usually helping others. You provided us with a roof over our heads, good meals and funds to help us meet our immidiate needs. Thank you Red Cross for loving and caring. I truely do beleive you are all ANGELS. God bless each and every one of you. Thank you. Thank you, Thank you. Love, E. and J . Durring the Spencer, Indiana flood of 2008, we would have been totally lost without you.

This email we received today should serve as a reminder to each one of us that this is the work we are charged to do, it is not an inconvenience or an interval until we can get back to normal, it's not even a crisis. It is the reason we have endured for 127 years, it is why we are entrusted with the generous donations of so many people in our own two counties, in the state of Indiana and across the country who want to make a difference in the lives of people devastated by events beyond their control. This is the yardstick by which we are measured as a national organization and as a local Red Cross chapter. I hope you will join me in the commitment that we never fall short in carrying out our humanitarian purpose.

Special presentation for outgoing member Bill Ramos.

A Red Cross Volunteer Story – 27 Years and Counting

Bill Ramos became involved with the American Red Cross when he was just 16 years old. “My entire life has been based around the Red Cross and aquatics,” he said. He started with the American Red Cross as a lifeguard and swim instructor for Lake County, IN, but has since stepped up his involvement with the Red Cross over the years. Ramos, 43, has been a board member at the Monroe County Chapter for 15 years now and has held the chair of the health and safety committee for longer.

Ramos' career with the Monroe County Chapter began 20 years ago when he came to IU to get his undergrad degree in Physical Education. During his studies he worked as a Red Cross certified water safety instructor and lifeguard for the campus pool. After graduation he joined the chapter's health and safety committee. His involvement with that committee never stopped. And a few years later, he took on the additional role of board member.

He says that he continues to work with the chapter today because he believes in the Red Cross' messages and goals. "I think it's the quality and ultimate mission that they [Red Cross] are trying to provide [that keeps me involved]. They are enabling people to be prepared and keeping people safe," he said.

Ramos is currently the Director of the IU Aquatic Institution and is a full-time lecturer for IU's Recreation Park and Tourism Studies. He estimates that around 500 people a year get Red Cross certified at the IU outdoor pool. And he says that Red Cross certification has had an impact on some of his IU student lifeguards and instructors. "Many (students) get a sense of professionalism, go on to find good jobs or make a career in aquatics," he said. He also hopes to see more young people getting involved with the Red Cross chapter.