

Notes from the 8 October 2008 Meeting of the Council of Civic Organizations

The CCO met at 7pm in Central Library on October 8, 2008, Sam Reid, President presiding. Starr Janicki attended with me. I'm hoping she will agree to take my place come January 1, 2009. Ms. Janicki participated in the discussion and with reference to the CCO policy on gang activity in VAB, brought up an important point that was well-received by the other members. If Ms. Janicki does agree to become our representative, I think she will be a valuable member of both the Civic League and the CCO.

After pledge of allegiance and moment of silence, Ms. Cookie Ketcham gave a brief talk on the CERT program which trains citizens to be proactive in their communities in the event of a natural or man made disaster. In the event of a major catastrophe, emergency help may not be available for days, ergo it will be up to the citizens themselves to see to the needs of their own community. The CERT program consists of 36 hours of training; participants learn how to give emergency treatment, put out small fires, etc. in the event professional firefighters or EMTs are not available. Ms. Susan Dollenmeyer discussed the EMT program and how citizens can help in other ways than taking the course. Naturally, she recommends those who are interested take the EMT course which is gratis, is given 2 nights/week and a couple of Saturdays. EMT program also has need for administration volunteers.

A new CERT class begins on October 20th and ends the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. Class is two nights/week and a couple of Saturdays. Those interested can call Ms. Ketcham (385-2914). There also is need for volunteers to play "victims" which Ms. Ketcham suggests is a good way to show potential participants what the program is about. Ms. Dollenmeyer can be reached at 385-5004.

I believe this would be beneficial for the Chesapeake Beach Civic League to invite both Ms. Ketcham and Ms. Dollenmeyer to speak about their respective programs. Chesapeake Beach is at risk for storm and/or hurricane damage, therefore, in the event of a hurricane such as Katrina or Ike, it would be most beneficial for our citizens to know how to react in the event professionals are not available. Ms. Ketcham and Ms. Dollenmeyer can be reached at the above numbers.

A policy paper regarding the CCO's stand on gang activity in Virginia Beach was discussed and voted on.

The rest of the evening was a lively discussion regarding the Community

Legislative Agenda Virginia Beach is presenting to the General Assembly in 2009. I believe the Agenda the City is presenting to the State can be found on the CCO website.

Elizabeth Gregory
CCO Representative, CBCL