

**Make A Difference Day
Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2009**

In attendance: Jan King, Nancy Lewis, Barbara Pearson-Rac, Craig Skinner, Courtney Thomas

1. Committee: We welcomed Jan King from VAC as a new member. BP-R discussed the history of Dif Day with Jan. BP-R collected the contact information for Pat Scully to send out letters appointing them to the committee. We also discussed adding new students. Craig and Courtney will explore that. BP-R will also send Annie an email to see if she has any recommendations.

2. 2009 Projects: BP-R distributed the contact list of not-for-profits and volunteers for review. Jan will have the list updated to reflect any changes and make additions of groups. This year we will send out emails as well as a mailing to register participants. BP-R will explore the bulk mailing option with Ed Fitzgerald.
 - a. 2008 Winners: BP-R distributed copies of the USA Weekend edition that described the 2008 winners to discuss possible ideas for this year. Two projects were of great interest – a teacher develops a dif day project every year. Last year she contacted all 50 Governors and asked for their favorite recipes. She had the children design a cookbook that was sold as a fund raiser. Another great project was a yard sale – but it was free for needy residents. We discussed the possibility of having something like that set up in our area. We would need to find a group that would sponsor and organize the drive. Ideally, getting an empty storefront for a week to distribute the items would be perfect. Nancy said that Person-to-Person in Darien is already set up to do this, and possibly we just have a collection drive to meet their needs.

 - b. Current projects: BP-R listed the projects that we know will be happening:
 - i. Oct 4 – BCSC Fashion Show
 - ii. Oct 17 – BCSC Zumbathon
 - iii. Oct 23 -24- Benefit Concert to help a wildlife preserve in FL
 - iv. Oct 10 – Rotary Clean up
 - v. Girl Scouts
 - vi. B3
 - vii. Knitting baby caps

BP-R wants to get an early start this year with the goal to generate more interest, more volunteers and more projects. Craig described the projects that B3 would want to tackle which include clean ups, food drives, landscaping, building fences, work with Earthplace, perhaps some Parks & Rec projects including the ice rink. Craig mentioned his very successful efforts using tennis balls that are placed under chairs in schools to prevent damage to floors, eliminates or reduces scuffing which helps in school maintenance. We need to see if there are any other schools that would want to have these installed.

3. Brochure: BP-R handed out last year's brochure and it was decided to make some changes. The center fold will now contain photos of volunteers at work and we will add a quote from Barak Obama. Craig said he would research the quote.
4. Sticker: In keeping with Westport's desire to go green, so will our sticker!
5. Headquarters: The YMCA has traditionally been our Dif Day Headquarters, but we have also had a drop in project a the Senior Center. We decided that the Senior Center would be a better headquarters site and BP-R will check with Sue Pfister.

NEXT MEETING: Monday July 13th. Room assignment to follow.