

State of the Organization RBHOO 2012

For those of you who were here last year at this time, some of this may sound like déjà-vu. RBHOO continues to be a strong organization as it moves into 2013. This year we reached another milestone in memberships, over 225 families to be exact. This is thanks to the hard work of Mac, “the enforcer”, Humphrey and his side-kick Vic, “grand master of finances”, Vickery. We are on solid financial footing, which gives us the ability to move on projects of our own and to contribute to others in our community or the surrounding area.

The Board has worked diligently to bring interesting programs to our general meetings. Bob Inderbitzen gave us his “Slips, Trips and Falls, Part 2” in January and Dan Sexton, our Golf Course Superintendent, spoke on care, feeding and weeding of lawn turf. We learned about back flow valves from TASS, wild boars from TWRA, and coming back to personal health, a presentation by Michael Dalton of Monroe Co. EMS on Heart Attacks and Strokes. Since many of our members are also active on other Boards and committees both in Rarity Bay and outside the gates, we have been kept up to date on activities and happenings that impact all of us, be they legal, safety, or service oriented.

In keeping with one of our mission statements, to provide a forum to consider issues of concern to property owners, we recently hosted a “Meet the Candidates” evening here at the CAC. The candidates for the CAI board, most of whom are RBHOO members, made their presentations to an overflow crowd, a testament to the interest of the community in the transition process.

RBHOO has continued its involvement with projects that benefit all of us. The Highway 72 clean-up that occurs every 8-10 weeks makes our little corner of East TN a bit more beautiful, if only for a day or two. We also purchased some signs to use in conjunction with this project. Thanks to Bart Whitman for overseeing these worthwhile endeavors. Paul Serbue continues to tote his box of stickers and information about our House Buddies program to meetings and share the benefits with new members. Tom Sampeer will share our radon detectors with any member who wishes. The RBHOO website, so ably overseen by Jack Wright, offers not only minutes of board and general meetings, but a variety of important lists (services, travel, volunteer opportunities, loan items, playground locations), legislative contacts and other useful information. Check it out. Representing RBHOO, I met with the CAI Board last spring when concerns were raised by residents about coyote sightings and together we developed a tracking system for sightings etc. Once that was in place, the coyotes moved on!

Two programs that benefitted organizations outside our gate are our Cartridges for Kids recycling program and our Coups for Troops initiative. We have taken over 100 used printer cartridges to Vonore Middle School and Sequoyah HS where the funds they get for them are poured back into programs benefitting students and teachers. The Coups for Troops program, chaired by Rita Lemanski, was new in 2012. The amount of clipped

coupons that Rita has delivered to the collection point in Maryville over these past 12 months is mind-boggling. A big thank you to her and to all of you who clipped coupons and stuffed the box in the library. This project has drawn to a close but there is satisfaction in knowing that a lot of service family grocery budgets were stretched by those coupons.

RBHOO is always on the lookout for projects here at the CAC, our community's activity center. Although we did not have to wield paint brushes this past year, we did purchase the coat racks in anticipation of cold weather to come. I see the need for more chairs in the future—so residents won't have to bring lawn chairs to large gatherings. We purchased a flip chart stand, not highly techie but very useful in one presentation this year, and a wonderful sound system that we have all enjoyed during our meetings—and events where we have shared it and our "sound guru" Chuck Brummund. Although Chuck's term on the Board is ending, he will continue to house our system in the short term and train several of us in its use.

Recently, we sponsored our 2nd annual pizza luncheon for the various grounds crews who toil so diligently making RB look beautiful—at the barn, on the golf course, around the condos, and on our common grounds. Dan and Ryan came and this year we extended the invitation to include the CAI office staff—after all, having to work down the hall when pizza aroma is wafting into your office would be hard! Needless to say, the guys out-ate the gals in the pizza category but Erin and Tineall held their own in the salad department, desserts was a tie!

Between general meetings, our RBHOO.org website, a monthly article in "Life at the Bay", and the many activities of our board and membership, RBHOO keeps a strong presence in Rarity Bay. As President (outgoing and incoming!) I want to say Thanks to our outgoing Board members Gail Noble, Mollie Moll and Chuck Brummund, thanks to those remaining for another year: Roger Cooper, Vic Vickery and John Seitz, and thanks, in advance, to those who are looking to join the Board: Mary Russell, Sandy Richard and Keith Harding.

Bobbie Polacsek, President