

Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County
9700 Uva Drive, Redwood Valley, CA. 95470

BOD Meeting September 16, 2026 @ 6:01pm @ Redwood Valley Grange

Welcome and Roll Call @ 6:00pm

In Attendance – John King, Teresa King, Autumn Ehnou, Julie Dauer, Jaime Wilkes, Myriah LaTourette, Jenny Hanzlik, Tracey Mcnamara, Wynona Idica, Ronnie Richter, Patricia Ris-Yarbrough

Absent – Kether Sprague, Becca Edwards,

Public – Joe Aplet, Emily Tecchio, Leonore Hernandez

One moment of silence to reflect and breathe

Approval of August, 2026 Minutes – Autumn approved; Myriah seconds.

Approval of Agenda – Julie Approves with Keep in Review Correction of BOD Meeting date; Jaime Seconds

Public Forum – Guest Introduction and comments - Welcome Guests

Presentation – Emily Tecchio – County Coordinator and Fire Representative – Mendocino County Fire Safe Council and Mendo County Fire Chiefs Association - What does Mendocino County Fire Safe Council Do and how can they help us? – non profit working county wide to help residents survive and thrive in our wildfire environment. Education based non-profit. Connecting people with information, sign up for a new letter, hosting events, focus is from the home out and from the community out. A few core programs – community chipper days, defensible space programs for seniors, wild fire risk home assessments, and community work parties. Other core activity is helping neighborhoods organize a fire safe council where you can become eligible for micro safe grants for specific projects. Fire Safe Council helps connect resources to the community; open to interacting with HSIMC in any capacity HSIMC may feel we may need.

Questions –

Teresa – does the work party work alongside the fire safe crew? Do they do tree trimming or weed abatement?
Emily – yes both parties work together; we can help with minor tree limbing but not major tree trimming; have a mower they can bring out.

Teresa – if we wanted to do a neighborhood safety group would we have to rally neighbors? Emily – do you have anyone onsite? That would work as a safe council, they would like others involved but the safe council can be the on-site manager. The next step up is the Fire Wise Community (for neighborhoods with eight participating lots).

Teresa – what if we have a neighbor who doesn't want to participate but needs to? Emily – free work can be enticing, but we should breach that when we get there.

There were others on Uva Drive interested at one time, possible Fire Safe Council can reconnect and see if we can start getting work parties up and running.

Pein asked if Fire wise can help with egress/exit strategies – Emily said they are grant based and that type of work would have to be worked in to a funding area; Fire wise only helps with fuel reductions.

Tracey asked if the “county” street trees can get trimmed by Fire Wise; Emily said they have a great relationship with the county and they do this.

Joe asked about micro grants – Emily said they started with a micro grant for water tanks; piping access; smaller fuel reduction projects; temporary refuge shelters for some communities; can purchase equipment for

fire departments; help mapping with fire departments; reflective signs for neighborhoods; home hardening is ramping up so Fire wire has helped with the purchase of replacing vents for houses.

Autumn asked what the process is for them coming out – Emily said setting up an appointment for a “home assessment” would be the first step. Norm Brown is the assessor, he is retired Cal Fire.

We had Brooktrails Fire Safe Council came out (Angie Herman) and gave us a great report on things to look at/fix. Angie did suggest we create our own Fire Safe Council.

President's Comments

Thank you to Autumn for putting together the awards and delivering to our emergency personnel who showed up and helped when HSMC had the onsite fire. Teresa also wanted to Thank Becca who has been living up to her title of “life saving manager” with her newest baby kitten. We really appreciate her extra time she puts in at the shelter. Third thank you to Myriah for all her work on KK which is sneaking up on us quickly.

Teresa asked how the board would feel about adding a line item for appreciations/thank yous to the agenda going forward? It is really important to acknowledge BOD, employees, fosters, volunteers, etc.

Erin's resignation – Secretary volunteer or rotation of minutes responsibility? We are now looking for a permanent secretary. If we cannot find a secretary we will have to rotate BOD taking notes at meetings. If you have any interest please connect with Teresa.

Current Redwood Valley lawsuit to stop Faizan Corp. from building new gas station in RWV – Pien

Pien – There are three local community members suing to stop the permit going through. The issue is the board of supervisors voted yes to allow Faizan to build a 10 station gas station on Uva Dr at the foot of the Willits Grade. The advisory committee continues to vote no as Faizan has half a million dollars in fines. Bakers creek runs and meets with Foresythe creek in underground tunnel. With the fines and spills Frazan Corp has under their belt, there needs to be more extensive environmental studies that have not been done to see how the gas station would affect these creeks. The lawsuit has been filed and now the community members are trying to find alternatives to the gas stations. Faizan owns this property. There hasn't been a negative declaration to have the environmental studies to be done. **Go Fund me – Smart Growth Redwood Valley.

o How does this affect HSMC? – John – some implications will be the Uva Drive exit on 101 will go away and the median will be closed. The State St exit would continue to be there for the gas station entrance/exit on 101 North but you will no longer be able to cross 101. John's major concern is there will be a lot of people coming around on both sides of the lawsuit; environmental people, county and state people and who knows who else. We need to be aware and on alert to ensure we don't have an environmental sensitivities that would get us in trouble. This is something that will most likely affect HSMC in a big way.

Discussion on frequency of meetings. In person, online or hybrid? We agreed in June that we would continue to have monthly meetings with a hybrid option for when people couldn't make it, but that the hybrid option wasn't to be utilized to just not show up. Terry Budreaux has offered to allow us to utilize her equipment for our online option. John and Teresa tested it and it worked beautifully. We have agreed to set up the hybrid option as an option, not the rule. If you will be attending the board meeting on the hybrid option, our board members need to RSVP to the agenda email and let the board know. We liked having July off, but it was notated that a lot came up and we missed the opportunities to discuss important topics.

Financial Update Report – John – Month of August we had revenue of \$35.8K, expenses of \$47.5K giving us a net operating loss of \$11.7K. Our LPL valuation is \$1392.6K and we received a dividend of \$5,592. Our cash/checking is \$60.9K and our reserve is \$38.1K. Our 2026 operating revenue is \$578.2K and our expenses to date are \$446.7K giving us a net operating profit of \$131.5K.

As of today we are slightly under \$2mil in cash assets.

Shelter Operations Report – Becca/Jenny – Suzanne has expressed interest in returning to HSMC on a limited basis; the team is working on what her schedule would look like; Suzanne has said maybe every other

weekend or one day every other weekend. She would like to return in October. We are creating a special job description for her around the medical needs at the shelter. Heather is leaving us, today was her last day. Heather was a dog team animal care giver. She found a great opportunity at East Hill, we have started the hiring process. Being down a cleaning person will be challenging, we had 57 applicants and 5 interviews set up. Hoping one will work out and training can begin.

Kether emailed asking questions on the shelter report, around transfer-out partners. This section is blank, Becca wanted to share "as a private non profit shelter that does not euthanize for time or space and leads the way in fostering, marketing, and homing pets we are considered a transfer-in location. Publicly funded shelters reach out to us to place pets in need because animals accepted into our organization are not put at risk of euthanasia. These parameters make it harder to find transfer out partners because there are animals and organizations in much greater need. Over the last 5 years we have transferred out an average 25 animals per year. 75% of them cats because we tend to reach capacity with them more often. For dogs we sometimes seek transfer partners for specialty cases, such as breed-specific rescues. In light of the recent events with Miranda's, it's also important that we are careful with where we place our animals. Moving forward it's important that we have the time to properly vet other organizations and make sure the level of care matches or exceeds what they would get from our rescue. This will be our ongoing goals as continue to pursue these partnerships."

Teresa asked how Yokayo Vet closing may affect us – Jenny thinks it will affect the community, but won't really affect HSMC as we haven't done a lot with Yokayo recently. It is Jenny's understanding we won't be losing the practice, but potentially that it will be reopening.

Dr. Burns did 30 cat spay/neuters for us today; and has offered another day in December.

Pet pantry – Each pet pantry customer completes an intake form, which collects basic information about the household, the pets being assisted and the type of support provided. We report Pet Panty assistance to Shelter Animals Count through it's Community Services Database. We helped 103 dogs in one month and 196 cats– this could be a couple of the same pets. We have implemented and mirrored the way Sonoma Humane does their pet pantry which is a gallon size dog food bag and a quart size cat food bag. The donations come from the community.

Jaime asked about the phone issues – Jenny has spend thousands of hours trying to sort the phone. AT&T was our landline and AT&T hasn't wanted to come out and assess the issues. Lingo called and said they were taking over some of AT&T's lines. Lingo is cheaper with a UMA system (VOIP system). Our internet wasn't stable enough to cover the UMA system, Lingo promised we would have no issues. We had chip issues, and now we are having issues with calls not rolling over. Do we have a next step? Jenny said she is continuing to call tech support for help. Suggestion to look in to Verizon business to see if changing vendors may help.

Construction Projects – Tracey

Not much more to add from John's comments – should have more information next month.

John - Rear kennels are complete, just a final walk through (planned for Thursday). The back of the property has about 20 appliances. To get rid of the appliances, it is \$18 per appliance with no daily limit. The big question is how do we get them to the dump? We can rent a dumpster for \$350 and all appliances could go in there with an additional \$18 per appliance when the dumpster is picked up – we are looking at about \$700-800 for this, we would need labor to get the appliances in the dumpster. Once everything is gone, John recommends bringing in soil to build some of that back up and let nature take its course, Jaime recommended base rock. Jaime has made a motion to get a dumpster to clear out the trash, Tracey seconds the motion. All voted to approve to get a container and have a volunteer day. Can anyone call Garmen and northern Aggregate about bringing in Materials? Tracey will call Garmen.

HSMC growth – Autumn – in looking over our tax documents, in a little over 3 years we will hit our 50 year mark of non-profit status (July 1980). With this, are we looking at grants and growth plans. Our 990's have been consistent over the years even through our growth. Is there something big we want to do that we can wrap around our 50 year anniversary and this gives us the time to look in to this. John said in 1980 this status was more focused on the spay and neuter aspect and about 35 years ago HSMC was forms and split from the

spray and neuter side, which is still going strong in our community. There is a lot of grant money for community growth in non-profits. Autumn has looked at the land next door and thinks he may be motivated to sell, the land is 75 acres.

Fundraising and Community Involvement Activities - Fundraising chair search ongoing

- o Kritter Karnival – Sunday, September 27th – Myriah / All board members

Silent auction – we have a lot of little things and gift cards that we can consolidate and make baskets with. Rhonda Hurlburt (previous board member) would love to help on the silent auction items to put things together. Joe will bring 10 bales of straw over from his place the Friday before KK. Jaime said Sparetime will have a basket for the silent auction.

Food – We have six people signed up for salads, Jaime will have a green salad, Tracey will have a potato salad and watermelon. Set on salads.

If anyone else is available for set up and cleanup – we can always use help. At this time, we need more help with cleanup. Easy ups come on Friday. Bounce house comes on Friday. The DJ will be covered from the elements. We are bringing in tables and chairs on Saturday. Dunk Tank comes Saturday.

Trying to get Judge Pekin to come and give a message.

Ben Surman has offered to make and donate 20 KK shirts, and then we could purchase additional shirts for \$12. Myriah will get more information.

Saturday at 11am for set up and Sunday at 9am to finalize all set ups. Need someone to man the dunk tank (put Erin there).

- o Shanel Valley Academy Health & Wellness Fair – Saturday, September 26th – Autumn and Erin - Rescheduled to October 3, 2026. Set up begins at 9, the health fair will be open from 10-1. Autumn and Erin are not available. – We have prior obligations and cannot make the October 3 date.

- o Calendar Contest – Jenny / Wynona – (9/6 – 10/18)

Current requests for partnership and presentations

- o Willits Harvest Festival 2026 – October 3, 2026 – 4pm – 8pm – Teresa and John will be there

\$75 registration fee for 12' x 12' space – no food unless we get a partner with a food license. We are going to partner with Mia Bia, they will be selling wine and we will have swag and our informational table, think it will be great to get more exposure in Willits. We have a sponsor for the space fee. Event is from 4-8pm. If anyone wants to come and talk to people, all are welcome. Jaime recommends to bring lighting because it gets dark toward the end.

- o Big Picture South Valley High School – December 9 – Time – TBD – 18 HS students and 2 chaperones, tour, presentation on roles in animal welfare, volunteering and pursuing future rescue & vet related fields. – Jenny feels we need to build a curriculum. See if the College or High school may have a media student who might want to help do this or as a senior project.

- o Community Helpers Day – October 7, 2026 – 2:30pm – 4:00pm - Pinoleville Native American Headstart and Early Headstart - Tabletop setup with games? Wheel of Fortune? Literature for HSIMC? – Potentially forego this event.

What's next? Who can help?

Upcoming Meetings -

- o Kritter Karnival – September 23, 6:15 via Google Meet
- o Fund Raising Committee Zoom – TBD
- o Finance Committee TBD at 10:30am at HSIMC
- o BOD Meeting – Wednesday October 21, 2026

Keep In View

- Wags and Wines / Offsite Adoption events
- Spring Rummage Sale
- Spears Transportation Gala

Adjournment @ 8:10pm