

CPAAA General Meeting

Grace Union Church, August 8, 2024

Refreshments 6:30 pm; General Meeting **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** at 7:01 by Larry McDaniel, President.

Board Members present: Larry McDaniel, Joe Buffa, Kim Hummert, Marci Potter, Linda Gartner, Karen Hernandez, Carol Pritchett, Elfriede Faulstich and Dale Flanakin.

Introduction of New Police Captain and Presentation of Officers of the Quarter, Q3

Captain Brian Schellman introduced himself as the new Precinct 4 Captain. He shared his background, and his history indicates both familiarity with and a fondness for South County and the 4th Precinct. He introduced Andrew “Topper” Topolski as the Precinct 4 Officer of the Quarter. Joe Buffa presented the officer with his plaque. Shawn McGuire then introduced Keith Venuto as Precinct 3 Officer of the Quarter, whom Larry presented with his plaque. Since Treasurer Norma Fogelbach was not in attendance, both officers will be given their \$100 checks at a later date.

Shawn McGuire, reported for both precincts that while crime is down, burglaries continue to rise, and are frequently associated with people leaving their garage doors open. If a resident is in the home while a garage theft occurs, it is Burglary in the First Degree. Shawn cautioned that we all pay attention to our surroundings and report what we see. Car thefts are easy for burglars when owners leave smart keys in the car, and he advises that we make it harder on burglars – not easier! Shawn told us they have identified a local person who has been stealing cars, taking them to a body shop and changing the cars in appearance and in features, making it difficult to identify the stolen vehicle. Now that they know who the person is, it will not be as difficult to keep tabs on him.

Cece Young told us about “National Night Out,” an effort to place officers in neighborhoods to keep and maintain safer neighborhoods. The date for the national event was August 6, though in St. Louis, our officers will be doing these neighborhood nights in October (no specific date noted), when it is not so hot and people are more comfortable being outside in the evening.

There will be a Citizens Police Academy on Tuesday evenings starting the last Tuesday of September and running through October. It will be held at Precinct 3. Details are included in the CPAAA newsletter which came out this past weekend. Ideas for additional places to advertise the academy were discussed.

Committee Reports:

Minutes: A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes was seconded and approved.

Treasurer’s Report: The treasurer was not at the meeting.

Membership: Linda Gartner reported that we have 110 members.

Volunteer: Karen gave a shout out to the volunteers who worked JB Blast and the barbecue at Christ Memorial. She encouraged people to volunteer but asked that any volunteer unable to be at their intended event be sure to notify her.

Website: Jim was not at the meeting. Our fees have been paid for the next year, and Larry advised that Jim is in the process of updating content.

Christmas Party: Larry announced that the 2023 Officer of the Year celebration will be held at this year's Christmas Party, in an effort to realign these celebrations, the regularity of which was messed up by the pandemic.

New Business:

BBQ Fundraiser: Elf gave a huge thanks from the church men's club to all CPAAA volunteers who helped at the barbecue. The barbecue brought in a little over \$1600, and the men were so appreciative of all the hard work from our volunteers that they "rounded up" their donation to us to \$2000! Additionally, the bake sale brought in about \$250. Larry pointed out that Christ Memorial has monthly barbecues 7 months a year, and encouraged our membership to return the favor by frequenting those barbecues.

Officer Appreciation Barbecues: Joe reported that the Precinct 4 event was held on June 4, Precinct 3's on June 19. The volunteer team stayed at the precincts until both shifts had eaten. Joe gave a shout out to Kathleen Luepke, Betty Tieman, Dee Buffa, Karen Hernandez, Larry Tieman, and Larry McDaniels, all of whom worked along side Joe. He also thanked those who prepared and dropped off desserts.

PA Speaker: Of note, CPAAA has a new loudspeaker system, making meetings easier for all to hear.

Pizza Benefit: CPAAA Board has voted to have another officer appreciation event in October, this one consisting of pizzas delivered to both precincts at the start of both shifts.

Nominating Committees: Election of Officers will be held at our next general meeting. A nominating committee was put in place to include: Jan McCracken, Linda Gartner, Kathleen Luepke and Larry McDaniels. A second nominating committee for the Officer of the Year (2023) will include Dennis Doerge, Elf Faustich, Marci Potter, Mark Seigel and Nancy Gerik.

Program:

The program was handed over to Shawn McGuire who presented what he called a pared down version of his Active Shooter program, "pared down" because he was unable to include videos that he usually shows. However, Shawn advised that these videos are available on You Tube. He encouraged those who are interested to search on "bodycam active shooter." Definition of an active shooter incident is one where "...an individual is actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a populated area."

He explained that police train for these situations and teach others as well to RUN - HIDE - FIGHT. These are option based. This mindset is one of being aware of surroundings and considering options to alleviate being frozen in fear when something goes wrong. In an active shooter setting, police are to seek and eliminate the threat, and the fire department (EMS) comes behind to treat casualties. This multi-faceted approach is coordinated by inter-departmental communication between management levels of police and fire departments.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 8:41. Next meeting will be November 14, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Marci Potter, Recording Secretary