



P.O. Box 523 · Traverse City, Michigan 49685 · www.TraverseCity.org

March 2018 Member Meeting Notes

Date: March 13, 2018
Time: 5:30 PM @ Great Wolf Lodge
Theme: Health & Safety
Speaker(s): Preston Taylor (GT County Sheriff's Department), David Prichard (Michigan State Police), Aimee Stahl & Cataline Esparza (Northern Michigan Health Services, Inc., Hep. A)
Board Members Present: Laurie F. (President), Julie T., (Visitors Media), Elaina H. (Treasurer), Jonathan P. (Secretary)
Board Members Absent: Randi H. (Past President) – resigned from hotel industry

Board Member Announcements

President – Laurie F.

- Thank you to Great Wolf Lodge – Trey and Austin – for organizing a great spread
- New name tags are here
 - Please just remember to return before leaving
- Membership
 - LPVA new member
 - Chateau Chantal new member
 - Traverse Bay Tours returning members
- Post Cards
 - Will be mailing out 250 cards to drum up membership and raise awareness to May recruitment meeting that will take place at Teetotallers
- May meeting
 - Speakers will be focused on staffing – PMP, Access Point, Northern Staffing
- TC Certified
 - Jonathan has no additional information right now. Waiting to confirm
- Spring Seminar – April 11th at Hotel Indigo from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM
 - JP noted past formats and current one and noted which topics were voted the most, which are:
 - Problem Solving Face-to-Face with your Guests
 - Hiring/Retaining/Firing Employees
 - Review Management – Tips & Tricks for review handling
 - Social Media
 - Website Tips & Tricks
 - Will be associate member booths available at the seminar
 - RSVP would be great to help coordinate
- June Fun Meeting
 - Held at LPVA wine trail
 - Wine and food provided
 - Games and activities planned

Vice President – Julie T.

- Post cards/Business cards
 - Just waiting to hear from mailing company regarding non-profit stamps
 - Business cards need more tweaking – text too small
- Survey
 - Something coming in the mail coming to check about sharing membership information and such
- Website
 - May have a survey coming out about what is a value to the membership
 - Is it used by visitors or members?
 - It's coming along very well – in final stages
 - Old website is back and running for now.

Treasurer – Elaina H.

- Current balance in account is \$4,338.92
- Let us know if you have any issues contacting us through PO Box
- New members are prorated through membership year if anyone still wants to join

Membership Announcements

- **Interlochen** - concert series will be announced around April 4th
- **Mt. Holiday** - extended one more week through Friday, March 16 because they still have snow

New Business

- None at this time

Preston Taylor – GT County Sheriff's Department – Area Update & Self Defense

- Assigned to East Bay Township area
 - Go-to guy for reoccurring issue like trafficking/prostitution.
- Hotels are a constant interest point for drugs/trafficking/vices
- If you see something, say something
- Share information
 - Need Code Red established for the hotels
 - Need to set up through emergency manager
- Police will always work to keep hotel's identity protected or on the down low as much as possible.
- Personal safety is his passion.

David Prichard – Michigan State Police – Human Trafficking

- He's a community service trooper
 - Talks to groups, schools, etc. about home safety, drugs, human trafficking, etc.
- Did a surprise walk-in test of 5 hotels about 2 weeks ago to see what the Front Desk does if they suspect human trafficking or sex trafficking
 - None really knew, which showed him that more education is needed for the area.
- Human/Sex trafficking is here
 - Just a week ago, a hotel found a woman going room-to-room-to-room

- Drugs are here, too.
 - He's done tests and has bought cocaine 7 days in a row to bust dealers/buyers
- Trafficking is modern-day slavery involving use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act
 - Millions a year it happens
 - Any person under 18 involved in commercial sex act is considered to be part of trafficking. No exceptions
 - Average age is 12-15-years-old
- Traffickers look for people who are susceptible for variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, etc.
- Signs
 - Does person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship
 - Has child stopped attending school?
 - Sudden change in behavior
 - Is juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
 - Bruises in various stages of healing?
 - Person fearful, timid, submissive?
 - Person unkempt or looks hungry/thirsty?
 - Appears to be coached on what to say?
 - Lack of personal possessions and lack of stable living situation
- Trafficking can happen from own home. Smuggling is kidnapping and taking away across the border
 - Traffickers hold something over the person being trafficked – death, embarrassment, etc. – while the individual continues living their life (going to school, work, etc).
 - A lot of it is linked to drugs – a individual who is an addict can't buy due to no money. The dealer traffics them so the individual can get the drugs they seek.
- What is Michigan State Police doing?
 - Conducting prostitution and "john" stings in each post area utilizing uniform and undercover officers
 - Developing working relationships with DHS, Salvation Army, shelters, churches to provide resources to victims
 - Going to provide posters to be displayed at area hotels stating their management works with MSP and law enforcement
 - Provide training and awareness to the communities through community service Troopers
- Questions to ask someone you suspect is a victim
 - What type of work do you do?
 - What is your work environment like?
 - What are your work hours?
 - Can you quit your job if you wanted to leave?
 - What are your living conditions like?
 - Can you come and go as you like?
 - Have you or your family been threatened?
 - Do you have ID/documents in your possession?
- Who to contact when you suspect:
 - National Human Trafficking Hotline:

- 888-373-7888
 - Available 24/7 – all calls confidential
 - FBI – Detroit
 - 313-965-2323
 - US DHS
 - 313-226-0750 or 866 DHS-2-ICE
 - Michigan Attorney General’s Office: www.michigan.gov/ag
 - Polaris Page: www.polarisproject.org
 - TraffickFree: www.traffickfree.com
 - The Free2BMe Project: thefree2bmeproject.org
 - Traffick 911: www.traffick911.com
- Questions?
 - Contact Trooper David Prichard, Michigan State Police Cadillac Post
 - 231.942.8987 or prichardd@michigan.gov
- Look Again Trafficking Video: <https://tinyurl.com/MSPLookAgain>

Aimee Stahl & Catalina Esparza – Northern Michigan Health Services, Inc., Hep. A

- Strain that’s present locally
 - 4 cases of Hep. A in GT County and 1 in Leelanau County recently.
- See additional slide show

Winners of Drawing

- Great Wolf Lodge Overnight Package - Jamie from Grand Beach
- 6 tickets – Jeff Dufort
- Dinner and Movie for 2 – Trey Kelly
- LPVA wine bag, teas, books, bookmark – Vince from LED lighting
- LPVA wine bag, glasses, two tickets to any LPVA event – Tanya of Chateau Chantal
- 1-night to Quality Inn – Erin Rose from LPVA