



Grandparents Against Gun Violence Meeting Minutes March 26, 2018

President Judy Sherry called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm at Colonial Church in Prairie Village.

Charlotte Davison reported that since the school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, GAGV has seen an increase in memberships, renewals, and donations as people are eager to take action and stand against gun violence. GAGV currently has almost 1,400 subscribers to our newsletter and 248 paid members.

Barb McNeile introduced Officers Mary McCall and Aaron Whitehead, Community Interaction Officers who will be our main contacts for Lock It for Love events at South Patrol. Officer McCall has invited us to join them at several events including Ingels Elementary School, health fairs, and movie nights. The first event is the Health, Wellness and Safety Fair at the KCPD South Patrol, 9701 Marion Park Drive, on Saturday, April 21 from 10 am – 2 pm.

Barb reported that there have been 26 LIFL events where 624 free gun locks have been distributed. We are currently working with six metropolitan police departments. Volunteers are needed for upcoming events.

Carla Oppenheimer reminded us of the Fifth Annual Heartland Community Forum featuring keynote speaker Candace Lightner, founder of MADD, on Monday, October 8, 9 am to 2 pm at the PlexPod Westport Commons, 300 E. 39th Street. Volunteers are needed for the event; volunteer forms are available after the meeting.

Judie Becker asked us to submit the names of 2-3 people who share our concern about gun violence and would be willing to become underwriters or sponsors of the Heartland Community Forum.

Marlene Krakaw introduced today's speakers, Anthony Butler and Deidre Anderson, informing us about bullying.

Anthony Butler, founder and CEO of The V⁴I⁴P Movement, LLC (Violence I Prevent.)

- Bullying involves an individual or group repeatedly harming another person physically, verbally, socially (isolating/ostracizing), emotionally, and via technology (cyber bullying).
- Core traits of bullying: deliberate, unwanted, aggressive, intimidating, repetitive, power imbalance.
- Hurting people have a tendency to hurt other people.
- Most bullies lack empathy, impulse control, were bullied before, feel entitled, are hurt, and live in an inconsistent/unstable home surrounded by overly competitive parents and family members.
- Cyber bullying insights:
 1. Don't respond in a negative way. Respond with class.
 2. Print and keep all copies of the cyber bullying.
 3. Report all incidents.
 4. Contact the police if threatened.

5. Cut off communication.
6. Be wise about what you share.
7. Don't be embarrassed to ask for help.
8. 75% of all school shootings are connected to the shooter being a bully or being harassed.
9. Bullying stops within seconds when someone confronts it.

Deidre Anderson is the Executive Director of United Inner City Services, home of St. Mark Child and Family Development Center. Deidre began by emphasizing that it is guns and access to guns that are the reasons a young person becomes a school shooter. She said that there are many grandparents of color who are not aware of GAGV and need to know about GAGV as they are more directly impacted by guns. She will help with this initiative.

- Deidre said it is the deliberate, repeated, imbalance of power components of bullying that makes bad behavior bullying even with the littlest of children.
- Watch for the behaviors of “mine”, whispering and calling children silly names.
- What children do is a mirror image of what they see in life.
- Girls are more sophisticated, cruel and challenging in their bullying, using isolation and whispering. Girls are increasingly using more physical aggression.
- Boys are more physical, easier to detect.
- How the adults respond determines if the incident turns into a pattern, i.e. use the battle over a toy to teach cooperation, problem solving skills, and delayed gratification.
- It is important for bystanders to stand up and stop the behavior.
- Adults can teach cooperative behaviors, deep breathing techniques, how to respond with assertiveness rather than submitting or counter attacking and to know they have the power to stop bullying.
- The presentation ended with a viewing of You Tube’s “Kid President's 20 Things We Should Say More Often.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m5yCOSHeYn4>

The meeting was adjourned by Judy Sherry at 5:30 pm.
Submitted by Charlotte Davison, Secretary