

# Grandparents Against Gun Violence

## Meeting Minutes

**December 4, 2017**

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

Secretary Charlotte Davison reported that due to a successful Heartland Coalition Community Forum and the new Lock It for Love program (LIFL), the number of subscribers to the GAGV newsletter has increased to 1,045 and there are over 230 paid members. GAGV supporters are urged to bring a friend to each meeting, two are better, to increase our outreach.

Barb McNeile thanked all who participated in the LIFL demonstration prior to this meeting. In the few months that LIFL has been organized, 35 volunteers have presented at 18 community events and given out 486 free gun locks in 126 zip codes. LIFL volunteers have spoken to 1,000 about the importance of keeping guns in the home locked. LIFL volunteer Chris Glenski spoke about being drawn to Grandparents because of her experience as a pediatric nurse at Children's Mercy Hospital witnessing the impact of gun violence on her patients and their families. She testified that LIFL has been well received, and a police officer always accompanies them.

Judy introduced Representative Richard Brown of Missouri's 27<sup>th</sup> District who recently introduced a bill to ban bump stocks in MO. Judy and LIFL volunteers represented GAGV at Rep. Brown's press conference to announce this bill on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Special guest Beth Falkenstein discussed her journey to becoming Community Resource Associate at Ad Hoc Group Against Crime and working for healing and justice in Kansas City which includes her work against gun violence. After growing up in Olathe, Beth spent a life-changing year in Chicago working with Mission Year. This intense urban ministry experience, focused on love and justice in the city, shattered many of her world-views and gave her a new lens with which to view her hometown of Kansas City. After returning to this area, she began working with urban youth. Beth's observation is that we tend to separate ourselves from issues if we don't see ourselves impacted.

Beth explained that AdHoc serves as the trusted bridge between the community and law enforcement. It is a primary support system for families who are victims of violent crimes.

Beth challenged us with the following action steps:

- **Give \$** if you have the financial means.
- **Give Time** – tutoring and mentoring is violence prevention. Volunteer on a trauma response team to canvas neighborhoods.
- **Sit** with someone as silent support in court, a ministry of presence.
- **Attend the AdHoc Annual Vigil** on January 1 at 11 am at Morningstar Youth and Family Life Center.

Jill Bufford, Linda Hammond and Joanne Banks from Mothers United for a Better Community spoke about how the loss of their loved ones from violence propelled them to begin Mothers United to assist and help families affected by homicide and violent crime.

### **Announcements:**

1. Judy reminded us to drop by Panera at Corinth Square for dinner as a percentage of proceeds from our purchases will be donated to GAGV.

2. Thursday, December 14, 5:30 pm – GAGV will join KS and MO Moms Demand Action and Heartland Coalition at a silent candlelight vigil at State Line Crossroads, 43<sup>rd</sup> and State Line, to commemorate the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sandy Hook Shooting. Candles and signs will be provided.
3. Next GAGV meeting Monday, January 22, 4 pm at Colonial Church in Prairie Village. “How About One More New Year’s Resolution” will present a list of action oriented volunteer opportunities.
4. Leslie Mark of the Indivisible KC core team asked that we join them to visit, call and email Jerry Moran’s office. Bring two or more friends with you. Document what you’ve done and share with friends. Like Indivisible KC on Facebook to keep abreast of their activities and news. (Like Grandparents Against Gun Violence as well!)

**Legislation** – Judy explained two bills in Congress that demand our attention.

1. HR 38 Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act forces states to recognize the permits of all states, regardless of whether that permit meets that state’s standards for what it takes for someone to carry a concealed gun in public. This bill will make it nearly impossible for law enforcement officers to quickly and easily verify that people carrying a hidden, loaded weapon are doing so legally.
2. HR 4434 “Fix NICS” bill is intended to improve the efficacy of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). NICS is missing records that would prevent dangerous individuals from accessing firearms. The gunman at Sutherland Springs obtained his gun because of a faulty NICS system.

BOTH bills have been incorporated into one bill in an attempt to force those who support Fix NICS to have to vote for Concealed Carry Reciprocity. Please contact your representatives to demand that the two bills be considered individually.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Charlotte Davison, Secretary