

SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

CHANGES ...

You may notice that the Newsletter looks a bit different this month. After many years of service to the Slopes Association, Bev Boggio has decided to take some time for herself and further her education. We are fortunate that Bev will remain active in our organization, lending her talents and knowledge to many projects. We wish Bev the very best as she takes on this new challenge.

It may take a few months until we settle into a style and format that works best for the Association. Please feel free to give your feedback to any member of the board. Our goal is to continue to make this newsletter a useful tool for our membership.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to help the Slopes Association. Don't feel that the only way to help is to come out to a clean up or garden planting. Think of your talents and offer to share them with us. There may be ways that you can help that we haven't even thought of.

We will be having a large clean-up on Saturday, March 28th at 9:00. The organization is planning on cleaning up the gulley on Brosville Street, where the old incline ran. We will be joined by alumni from Carnegie Mellon University and also folks fulfilling their community service obligation as required by district magistrate, Gene Ricciardi.

Maybe you'd like to write a short article about something that is happening on your street.

Perhaps you are a talented writer and would like to take over the writing and publication of the newsletter.

Recruiting new members is a great way to keep the organization fresh and growing. If you have new neighbors, please let a member of the board know, so that we can get them a welcome bag, or share a newsletter with your neighbors and encourage them to attend a meeting.

Our members are our strength. Thank you for all you do!

SSSNA CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 16, 2008

Our neighborhood Association held its annual Christmas Party the evening of December 16th in the dining room of St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center.

Forty neighbors attended and enjoyed good fellowship, good food, and some good Christmas caroling.

The evening's cuisine included tasty cheeses and other dips prepared and brought by the neighbors attending, a main course of roast beef, fried chicken and lasagna, and some wonderful desserts... some baked by our neighbors also. In the course of the evening our president Brad Palmisiano introduced our elected officials and their representatives present, including Representative Harry Readshaw and his wife Carol, Magistrate Gene Ricciardi, Ken Wolfe from Councilman Bruce Kraus' office, and Aaron Gordon from Representative Jake Wheatley's office. Toward the end of the meal Brad presented much

deserved volunteer awards to Rich Ripley, Johnno and Maria Prascak, Peggy Sullivan.

Brad also introduced Johnno Prascak as a new Board member taking the place of Janice Serra who had to resign due to her new job. Brad thanked Janice for her hard work serving the needs of our Slopes Neighborhood.

Brad finally gave away the door prizes including two "surprise" gifts brought by Representative Readshaw, and a lovely print donated by Johnno Prascak. The final raffle was our 50-50 raffle.

The evening ended with cheerful conversation and Fr. Don and several of those attending singing Christmas carols.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.

NOTES ON THE JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF SSSNA

We had 20 attendees on this cold January evening.

Chuck Half from the Mayor's Office attended this meeting.

Our president Brad Palmisiano was out sick. Misi Bielich, our vice-president, opened the meeting. She introduced two new neighbors who were present and we welcomed them warmly.

Then Misi outlined plans for new and brighter street lighting on Mission Street from 18th St. to Sterling St. SSSNA will also be asking our State Representative Harry Readshaw for a grant for safety lighting for the steps from Mission Street down to South Side Park.

Misi then introduced Ms Sarah Newman from *Neighbor Works of Western PA*. Ms Newman outlined the work that her organization does for Western PA. This includes:

- Counseling on purchasing or refinancing a home;
 - Credit counseling;
 - New homebuyers classes – dos and don'ts;
 - Foreclosure counseling.

For further info call her at 412 – 281 – 9773, ext 109.

Misi then turned the meeting over to Peter Kreuthmeier, an Executive Board member, to lead us in a process for updating our list of areas of concern for Slopes neighbors. These areas include: Steps and Railings, Sidewalks, Streets, Litter and Dumping, Gardens, Signs, Retaining Walls, Parking, Playgrounds, and Enforcement Issues.

We discussed some of these concerns, then prioritized several concerns needing immediate attention.

The meeting adjourned by 8:20 PM.

NOTES ON THE FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF SSSNA

22 neighbors attended the Meeting. Our Board President Brad Palmisiano introduced Chuck Half from the Mayor's Office who was in attendance. Brad welcomed new Slopes neighbors who have moved here from Cranberry. Brad then presented an update on several items:

- Our Welcome Bags are now ready... if you know a new neighbor in the Slopes get in touch with a member of our Board and we will get a Welcome Bag for the new neighbor.
- Membership Renewal is underway now... \$5 for the year for individuals and families.
- Our Newsletter is still in transition.
- South Side Soup Contest takes place on Feb 23rd. This is for the benefit of the Brashear Association.
- The Board has passed our SSSNA 2009 Budget. A detailed Budget is available upon request.

- We need volunteers for neighborhood clean-ups on March 15, 28 and April 4... from 9 AM til Noon.
- Project updates:
 - Mission Street Lights have been replaced by brighter lights.
 - The Josephine St. *Draft Survey* is complete and the Board will now prioritize our projects on Josephine St.

Brad introduced Judy Dyda from SSLDC who led a discussion on the updated *Community Plan*, and the role of SSSNA in the items of that plan, including what needs attention from neighborhood infrastructure. The SSSNA Board will now prioritize these items, deal with them as best we can, and stay in communication with the City regarding them.

Fr, Don Ware, C.P.

MARCH MEETING

Our March meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10. Joining us that evening will be representatives from the City representing the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and Animal Care and Control. Please plan on joining us. It is a wonderful opportunity to have

your questions answered by representatives of some of our City's most important departments.

Bring a friend!!

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOW DUE

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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WWW.SOUTHSIDESLOPES.ORG

FINANCIAL NEWS

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association finished 2008 in solid financial condition. A lot of the credit goes to a very successful 2008 Pittsburgh StepTrek. The proceeds from the annual event cover many of the expenses incurred by the organization over the course of the year.

Total revenues were \$22,122 while expenses were \$14,595. Among the larger expenses were supplies for maintaining the gardens and conducting neighborhood cleanups, printing and copying for the newsletter and the StepTrek booklet, insurance for the organization and tee shirts for the StepTrek.

SSSNA continues to depend upon the dues paid by members. We appreciate the financial backing of residents and friends who support the mission of the organization.