

EWI Roanoke Chapter Membership Meeting Minutes August 8, 2007

Our August meeting was held onsite at the Roanoke Rescue Mission. Prior to the meeting being called to order, members and guests were given tours of the facility. We were all amazed that the Rescue Mission has a 2.9 million dollar budget and does not accept any local, state or federal funding, meaning it is entirely run by donations and volunteers. The presentation portion of the evening began at approximately 6:15 p.m. Members in attendance were: Charlene Hudson, Lana Seale, Leslie Coty, Libby Camper, Linda Mack, Nancy Meyer-Barker, Jo Lynn Seifert, Tracie Ragone, Helen Deyerle, Michelle Chambers and Tonya Harper.

Guests attending were Mary Bowser, Verizon Wireless and several of the volunteer staff of the Rescue Mission.

Our own Helen Deyerle and Ueita Matthews conducted the program for the remainder of the evening. Each member was asked to draw a slip after being seated and all of these contained a question to be asked and an answer guessed by the reader. We were all anxious to hear the answers, and amazed at the statistics that were unveiled as each was read. I believe the two that struck me most were the fact that there are 58,027 volunteer hours each year and that more classes are conducted at the Rescue Mission each year than are conducted at Roanoke College.

Dana Carnot, a prior program recipient gave a testimonial with tearful eyes about the assistance that she had received and how it had enabled her to get her children back. She stated that she now serves them in any way that is needed because of her overwhelming gratitude. Then our President spoke of her service and work with the EVE Network, followed by inspirational talks by Linda Mack and Leslie Littlefield, another generous volunteer.

Ueita then gave us an overview of the EVE (Energy...Vision...Enthusiasm) Network. This was formed as a ministry of the Rescue Mission in the Fall of 2007 and was made up of representatives from the area to meet and take back to the workplace opportunities to volunteer and assist with fundraisers for the Mission. She encouraged everyone to participate as their schedules would allow. She also gave us some background on Art On a Mission which has a retail store at Tanglewood Mall where donations are sold and 300 local artists can show and sell their creations.

We were then delighted by the presentation given by the mascot for the Drumstick Dash. Kevin is a devout Christian, husband, father, teacher and runner along with devoting numerous hours of his time to the Mission promoting the Thanksgiving Drumstick Dash. This event began last year and 800 runners participated, the largest number ever in a run in this area. He moved us with his testimony and background on how he became the lucky recipient of an amazing Turkey costume that was the total creation of a young 14 year old girl named Sara Beth Webb.

The devotion was given by Nancy Meyer-Barker and a wonderful meal followed. I can say that I enjoyed the juiciest and tastiest piece of chicken that I have ever eaten.

During our meal, Ueita blessed us with a beautiful song. I'm certain that everyone left with a greater understanding and appreciation of the Rescue Mission and extreme gratitude for the loving staff and generous volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

Lana J. Seale
Secretary