

Wall Alliance for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse

March 1, 2018 – Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order: 7:04 p.m.

Members Present: Thomas Abogabel, Kristy Ansbach (WTEA), Eva Applegate, Patti Bartsche, Sharon Burney, Keri DiRocco, Sgt. Mike Hurden, Amy Gesualdi, Patti Mariconda, Mike McArthur (board of education liaison), Chris McDonald, Mary Lynn Morris, Marie O'Connell, Melissa Salso, Megan Sullivan.

Acceptance of February Minutes: Motion by Amy Gesualdi, second by Eva Applegate.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: The LEAD program is into its fourth week, with two officers in each class. The 10-lesson course covers a variety of topics including decision-making, goal setting, effective communication and conflict resolution. In addition, officers will be at the Wall High School March 26-27 speaking to all juniors as part of a program that focuses on drugs and alcohol.

As state officials debate whether New Jersey should legalize marijuana for recreational use, Sgt. Hurden presented an overview of a program he attended Feb. 15 presented by Congressman Patrick Kennedy, founder of NJ-Ramp.org, a coalition of individuals and associations who believe that the health, safety and economic harms or recreational marijuana legalization far outweighs the perceived social benefits.

One of the biggest concerns with the legalization is the impact on kids. Sgt. Hurden also presented a number of statistics how the percentage of DWIs, crime rates and accidental child overdoses have risen substantially in states that have legalized marijuana.

Sgt. Hurden provided an overview of some of the department's 2018 to-date statistics, including drug arrests, DWI arrests, Narcan deployments, and heroin overdoses.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

MEATBALL GALA: An update of this year's Meatball Gala, which is being held May 3, was provided. Several restaurants have been confirmed; waiting on others. In a change, there will not be a printed program this year; sponsors will see their logos scrolling a television throughout the night. Also, there will not be Mystery Envelopes this year; instead, there will be a 50/50.

PROJECT GRADUATION: Sign-ups for help for Project Graduation, which was held during the mandatory senior trip parent meeting, went very well. There is still a need for cases of water and soda as well as prizes.

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWER SALE: The annual Mother's Day Flower Sale at the high school will be held from 8-11 a.m. May 10 and 11. More details to follow next month.

EASTER PANCAKE BREAKFAST. The breakfast will be held March 24 to coincide with the township's Easter egg hunt. Volunteers are needed from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Please spread the word/

BOWLING FUNDRAISER: The Community Alliance and the Wall Township Police Department are working together to bring "Strike Out Drugs with the Wall Police" from 3-5 p.m. May 5 at The Lanes at Sea Girt. The cost is \$12 for two hours of bowling and pizza.

ALCOHOL AWARENESS MONTH: April is Alcohol Awareness Month; there will be a township proclamation.

OPEN COMMENTS: Instead of the first Thursday in June, the annual Scholarship dinner will be May 24 this year.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Tom Abogabel; seconded by Chris McDonald. Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Patti Bartsche