



Meeting Meetings from Thursday, December 7, 2023

Tonight's Training will be provided by Step up for Students

7:01: The meeting was called to order by President, Michele Connizzo

Minutes will be emailed to Members for approval of current voting members.

Old Business

- Annual auction: Approximately \$3,000 raised. It wasn't as much as we had hoped but a good start to cover program expenses for 2024.
- Breakfast with Santa was held with about 80 children present. It was a great event with a special performance by a local dance troupe. We look forward to this event every year.
- Toy and gift drives are ongoing at all Manatee County Library locations, Next Level Chiropractic, Blue Door Spa & Salon and Big Frog Custom T-Shirts and More. Also, donors can buy from our Amazon Wishlist OR donate money.
- Storage costs continue to rise. We are looking for alternatives. If you know of any group, organization or church that might have space and would be willing to partner with us, please let us know.

New Business

Board members for 2024:
President: Michelle Connizzo
Vice-President: Patrick Schwar
Secretary: Kelly E Lipp
Treasurer: Ericka Isensee
Sarasota Liaison: Brandy Towler

Open Board Member positions include Membership Chair, Training Coordinator & DeSoto Liaison. If you are interested in an open position, please contact Michele Connizzo or email info@manateecountyfapa.com

Training topics for 2024: If you have any training ideas for 2024 or things or are interested, please let us know.

Become a member! Membership now is only \$30 per family/per calendar year. Included in membership are Monthly trainings; access to the MCFAPA Foster Closet; Adoptions Congratulations packages; Special in-person; membership-only events like the Back to School Bash and the Breakfast with Santa; special Distributions like Spring Cleaning kits; opportunities to attend events through Tickets for Kids. 2024 membership form will be added to the website later this month and all current members will be reminded to renew.



Upcoming trainings:

Thursday, January 4: Training on Education Advocacy with Family Network on Disabilities

Thursday, February 1: Training on Adoptive Family Supports with multiple presenters

Thursday, March 7: Topic TBD

Thursday, April 4: Topic TBD

Let us know specific topics you are interested in!

Tickets for Kids: enjoys tickets with the Rays, Rowdies, trampoline parks and others

Welcome bags for foster families are customized to each child joining the family. Each Welcome bag is a new duffel bag with PJs, socks, underwear or diapers, clothing, a soft blanket, handmade pillowcase, a book, personal care items and more.

Medical recommendations: Do you have a great doctor or therapist that take Medicaid? Or one to stay away from? Please send names and specifics to Info@ManateeCountyFAPA.org so we can share with others.

Florida FAPA's 2024 Summer Education Conference is Friday, June 14- Sunday, June 16 at Doubletree by Hilton at SeaWorld Orlando.

Today's training: Step Up for Students presented by Stephanie Love. Presentation to be made available on our website's Resources page.

Meeting concluded at 8:20pm.

Meeting Minutes submit by Secretary, Kelly Lipp.