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Know Thyself

As 2023 draws to a close PAC's budget is on course to finish the year in positive numbers. A close margin, but gratifying, nonetheless. During this year, we have increased staffing to a number closer to what is needed to meet the demand for services without the crushing burden of overtime. We have also increased the rate of staff compensation... still not enough for the skill and dedication that they put into their work... but closer to a fair rate, and more competitive in the labor market.

Patients and their family members often refer to the professionalism and empathy that distinguishes our staff. We, the members of the board of directors, are proud of that distinction and have done our best to maintain an environment in which it thrives... but it is PAC's professionals in the field that are our most effective ambassadors.

It wasn't so long ago that PAC was submitting budgets that were written with substantial deficits which drew on a dwindling cash reserve that came from an estate bequest. That lifeline was running out.

As the cash reserves were diminished, the character of the board changed. There were new faces with new skills and energy. Remarkably, many of those new faces were reflections of a dedicated core group that sensed its own limits and looked for a broader range of capabilities in the new blood that would complement their own. With the hiring of a new and very capable manager, a new course was set.

The character of the meetings changed. As new capabilities merged with those already existing, there was more substance and vitality in discussion. Did the meetings run over-long? Not at all... there was more energy and focus within the same allotted hour. It was... and is... quite possible to drag oneself to a meeting towards the end of a long day and leave at the end of the hour recharged by the collective energy.

<<sequence>>

As it slowly grew and changed, our staff in the field became imbued with a greater sense of PAC's mission and pride in its accomplishment. This is due in no small part to the sense of your support from the greater community.

Looking back, it seems only natural that you, the citizens of this peninsula and beyond, would be swept up in this energy. This board has done it's best to make you aware of the importance of our mission and need for your support of it. Your response to financial appeals like this one speaks volumes about your sense of pride and dedication to this... your ambulance service.

I am honored to be a part of PAC and to be associated with all those who "make it happen". It is the board of directors that builds and maintains the organizational structure from which comes the setting of goals.

We have come a long way leveraging the skills and abilities of the people who serve on our board. The last five years, especially, have brought substantial achievement. Key to maintaining that level of accomplishment is knowing who we are. That insight gives us a sense of where we need to be, to strengthen our ranks.

We owe a lot to so many who have done their part to make 2023 a year of success for PAC. Contributors include PAC's Manager and staff who have made sure that the Peninsula Ambulance Corps is one of the best rural ambulance services in Maine, the board that has set a successful direction and provided a firm foundation for further success, and PAC's seven towns that have shared equally on a per capita basis in shouldering a critical contribution to PAC's finances. Now, in the next four weeks, whether PAC ends up breaking even depends on the generosity of its donors. Please help PAC close its 2023 funding gap.



Robert Vaughan, President
Peninsula Ambulance Corps



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