

Minutes  
Power of Together SECT 2  
Initial Meeting – April 12, 2016

We held our first PoT-2 meeting at 7:00 PM on April 12, 2016 at the Mystic VFW meeting hall. Approximately 50 people were in attendance, including 32 current members (couples or individuals) and guests of members. Deb Fountain, founder of the Niantic Power of Together group (on which our group is modeled) was present to share her wisdom.

Dave Schulz opened the meeting at about 7:10 PM and outlined the evening's events. He spoke about the genesis of idea, thanked everyone for coming and introduced Niantic PoT founder, Deb Fountain.

She talked about the start of PoT in Niantic, the history of its growth and the current membership, which reached 100 in time for the ninth meeting on April 13. She reviewed some of the charities they have donated to and tips on how we can be successful with out PoT group. Dave then reviewed the process for the evening and the three causes to be presented were chosen.

The three causes chosen included:

1. Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality (MASH) presented by David Cruthers. There is homelessness in our own community, including Mystic, and MASH is trying to reach out to help people and families on the edge.
2. Groton Public Library presented by Susan Keitzman. The library serves 23,000 people and sponsors over 1,000 programs. It is our community center, and provides assistance to many other community efforts. It serves people of all ages, from young children to teens to adult cultural and educational programs. It has won many awards for its programs. The budget is much less than it used to be (\$200K less than it was in 2012). They would the use funds for 1) promoting "community conversations" important to our region like poverty, crime, etc., 2) renovation campaign, or 3) Ipad kiosks for the Children's Room.
3. Child and Family Agency presented by Deb Morehead. This is a New London agency serving myriad populations, including proving nursing services to public schools, home health aid, support groups, mental health initiatives, and more. They put on a major annual tag sale to raise funds.

Dave and Deb answered questions about how PoT operates, how to "pitch" worthy causes, and how the organization will expand and evolve over time as momentum grows.

Members, including pre-registered and newly signed up members, now number 46, with

many more people still deciding. All are encouraged to access their networks of contacts and bring friends to next meeting on July 12.

Winner - MASH - \$4,000 - \$4,600 depending on final count.

Refreshments were offered for a social gathering afterwards.