

MN LDEI October 2019 Member Survey

53 Members

28 Responses (53%)

Q1. What kind of topics, experiences or speakers interest you? If you know of a specific venue or speaker please tell us.

Key Themes: Food / Culinary topics, Trends, Learning the 'inside story' of a business, Feature Women & Entrepreneurs, Ethnic/Cultural,

- Educational speakers on food, current trends, beverages etc., restaurant meals if feasible, I like getting inside info from owners of food business - something you might not hear or know about just by going to the cafe or restaurant etc.
- Various. I sent a list to Liz when she asked me.
- I love all food related topics (2 similar sentiment)
- I would love to visit/ highlight/learn more from the many female-owned and/or managed enterprises in the Twin Cities including the many women in our group who own businesses. Also Angie Gustafson with Gustola Granola, Tina Rexing of T-Rex Cookies, some of our Dame It! vendors...
- Presentations on current trends in food Tours...Fairbault cheese caves Farm tours of local cheese makers Tour of fruit orchards Tour of local vineyards (new one in White Bear Lake)
- I have been pleased with the creative, varied programs of the past. I am most interested in culinary- and beverage-focused programming and less interested in programs not closely related to our industry.
- Ethnic Foods
- Learning about foods from experts in the field. Touring interesting food locations
- Entrepreneurs of all food worlds. More cultural context would be fun.
- In the old days, we used to go to restaurants relatively regularly and the chef would talk to us. Often these restaurants were new and the chef would prepare special appetizers and things his restaurant was wanting to showcase. I also loved the Christmas cookie exchange and each Dame brought a 'tip' - such as best new cookbook, favorite tool, tried and true 'trick', favorite holiday tradition etc. Could Amalia talk about food and issues in Guatemala and other Central American countries. Her journey.
- Food trends, meet the maker, going to new venues like the Keg and Case
- I'm really open to any topic that's relevant to what's happening in the food and wine community.
- I am a very new member and have so far enjoyed the variety of venues and activities. Is there a way we can serve our homeless community or local food shelf?
- Food accessibility for at risk groups, including low-income families and the elderly, (i.e. those isolated/living alone).
- What's new, what's different in the world of food. Also, I am interested in what other people are doing in food - i.e. bloggers, authors, creative businesses (i.e. urban gardening). I like expanding my expertise in the area of food.
- Chefs & restauranteurs and their backgrounds. New venues around the city, like the food halls. I also think we have so many talented members, and I love having a meeting at someone's home and hearing them share their expertise or leading us in an activity. Could we survey members for the areas in which they're specialists so we could consider them for meeting content?
- Venue: Cambria free space

- Healthy living through diet Gardening, growing food Food and wine pairing
- Diverse cultural influences on our food, restaurants that are out of the mainstream. I'd love to meet some of the researchers at the U or farmers who are growing crops like perennial wheat. Of course, I don't want to have to drive too far (I know that farmers may be far away...) I'd love more food photo, social media, and other useful seminars, too.
- Trends, Women business owners.
- I like experiences such as touring a venue. I'd also like to learn more from our own members about what they do.
- Like to hear about new food trends, what going on with restaurants in the Twin Cities, updates on nutrition issues, ethnic foods, - things like that.
- I love presentations from authors who are food, food history, cultural food experts among many other things. So presentations (perhaps with a meal) are great.

Q2. Schedules are busy but in general what days are best for you to attend a meeting? Check any of the days that can work for you.

Clearly Tuesday – Thursday are the most popular days. However, being able to plan in advance is critical to being available on any day; this is mentioned in other comments.

	Rank
Tuesday	2
Wednesday	1
Thursday	1
Saturday	3
Other Days (see comments)	3

- Each week is different so it's hard to say but weekdays are best; I'm not interested in weekends as they are busy with other events. Someone mentioned breakfast meetings on our FB page and that would be of interest to me now and then.
- I like that we vary the day. It might be nice to also vary the time of day. Work in some mornings or lunch dates.
- Any day works, it just depends on my schedule.
- If offering tours, plenty of notification for members regarding date, especially if during the day on weekends, for planning
- Monday (3)
- Sunday
- Not the 3rd Tues or the 4th Thurs
- Evening are best during the week

Q3. If we mixed things up, would you be able to attend the following times? Rank from your most preferred to your least preferred time. Select N/A if you would rarely be available at that time.

The responses tell us that evening are best with slight preference to starting at 6. An occasional breakfast (later), lunch (later), or even Saturday morning would be welcomed. An all-day event is not preferred much at all.

	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	6-	7-	8-	N/A-	TOTAL-	SCORE-
- An occasional breakfast 8:00-9:30 am	6	0	3	4	3	2	3	3	4	28	5 4.71
- An occasional breakfast 8:30-10:00 am	0	8	4	3	0	3	3	0	6	27	3 5.24
- Lunch & Learn 11:30-1:00 pm	2	1	3	5	5	2	3	0	5	26	6 4.67
- Lunch & Learn 12:00-1:30 pm	1	3	4	4	6	5	0	0	4	27	4 4.87
- A Saturday morning	4	2	4	1	5	1	2	4	5	28	7 4.61
- All day for something special	1	1	2	6	4	6	4	1	2	27	8 4.00
- Evenings 5:00-7:00 pm	6	4	4	2	2	1	3	1	4	27	2 5.57
- Evenings 6:00-8:00 pm	7	8	3	2	0	2	1	3	1	27	1 5.81

Q4. What benefit(s) are you hoping to gain from your LDEI membership in 2020?

Key Themes: Networking, Camaraderie and Socializing with like-minded women, gain New Knowledge/Experiences

- Connections, knowledge, friendship
- Networking, industry enrichment and education.
- networking, ideas to bring to my students
- engagement with our culinary community and sisterhood
- Education, socializing with women in the industry.
- Knowledge Experiences...maybe behind the scenes Interacting with like minded, interesting women
- Educational opportunities, networking, collaborating and giving back to the community
- Friendship with like-minded people.
- Learning about food and beverages, new restaurants, food trends. Continue to build friendships with other Dames Continue our philanthropy through fundraisers
- Meeting amazing women. Learning of new business ventures.
- Learning, sharing, collaborating as much as we can with our busy schedules, it would be fun to do a family farm dinner once a year.
- Connecting with friends
- The camaraderie seems to be the main thing, and helping other women with our fundraising.
- Knowledge, camaraderie, purpose.
- Keeping up with other food professionals, and dining at new venues in town
- Networking
- Interact with great women and food ideas and knowledge
- Exposure to new places and learning from the variety of food expert members
- As a retired member, I rely on LDEI to keep me current and connected to the food world. I also strongly support the philanthropic commitment of our organization.
- As a new member my goals for 2020 are pretty simple, meet some new culinary professionals, find some fun volunteer activities and enjoy great food.
- Focus on what we in food-service can do to better assist groups (especially those at-risk) in our community who don't have access to good food at reasonable costs.
- Exposure to new ideas, new topics, networking
- I enjoy the connection with others in the different areas of the food industry and experiencing new places/foods/activities in the city.
- Community connections, Camaraderie with other foodies and friends
- Meet some new people and do a little volunteer work.
- Fellowship with other women who love and know food. A deeper understanding of food and trending food topics
- Learn about relevant topics and network with other members and guests

Q5. Is your membership in LDEI is a good value to you?

Yes, I am satisfied 89%

No, I would be happier if: 11%

- There were more active industry members attending the meetings. A nice group of people, but so many are retired.
- If I had a calendar of dates, because of my work schedule.
- I'm not sure how it could get me more work or help me make money, but that would be great.

Q6. What is most compelling part about LDEI MN membership?

	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	TOTAL-	SCORE-
- Networking/Social aspect of meetings	11	4	8	3	1	27	1 3.78
- Business connections I make	5	1	5	11	1	23	4 2.91
- Programs/Speakers	6	10	6	3	1	26	2 3.65
- Venue/Location Experiences	4	9	6	4	2	25	3 3.36
- Other	2	0	1	0	6	9	5 2.11

Other:

- Philanthropy

Q7 What additional Membership services or activities would you like to see our chapter offer in 2020?

	1-	2-	3-	4-	TOTAL-	SCORE-
- Mentorship program	6	3	7	2	18	3 2.72
- Job board	8	2	4	1	15	2 3.13
- Volunteer opportunities	10	7	4	1	22	1 3.18
- Other	0	3	0	2	5	4 2.20

Q8 If you answered Other in Question 7 please tell us if you have specific ideas for new services or activities we should consider.

- Food for needy populations
- Consider doing online activities as an option for members not in the Twin Cities areas and also for speakers to present without travel.
- Outreach programs for members of the community experiencing food-risk that will encourage them to be active participants and stewards, and give them a sense of ownership.

Q9 Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

- I think the program committee does a great job but having more advance notice of meeting dates and times would be helpful as I get things on my calendar and it gets filled up quickly.
- It's been a challenge to get others to join. They just don't see the value to the membership fee. Also, I would like to know more about learning trips, scholarships, and other opportunities available to LD members. It seems all of these opportunities go to non-members. Two people I tried to recruit to join said they thought it would be better for them to delay joining so they could apply for the mentorship/scholarship/grant programs!
- Centrally located meetings are best and a time that is reasonable for people who work and need to travel to get to the destinations.
- This role is such a difficult one...so much time, energy and coordination...I so appreciate what you do for the group!
- Locating so many of the events out in the far suburbs makes it a challenge to arrive after work.
- Love les Dames, great group, I am very proud to be a member!
- We all need to look for new members and encourage women to get involved.

- Thanks for asking for our input.
- It would be very helpful to me to know when meetings are scheduled several months out so I don't double book.
- Can't wait for another great year!
- I appreciate when meetings end by 8. That allows me to keep on my preferred early-rising schedule. Because I start my "thinking" day so early, I'm ready to be done by 8 p.m. :) All strictly personal preference!