

Minnesota Les Dames d'Escoffier Annual Report 2017-2018

President Report – Janice Cole

It's been an honor to serve as President to such an amazing group of talented and strong women. I've really enjoyed getting to know many of you better and I'm continually impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of this group. We had a great year and have accomplished many of the goals we set for ourselves including a sell-out Dame It!, a new MN LDEI website, a new micro-grant program geared towards supporting women already working in the field and a new benefit for members interested in attending the Annual International Conference. I'm really looking forward to next year as Audrey Nelson continues to lead with her impressive board.

Vice-President Report- Audrey Nelson

1. The major role of VP is to develop the next years' slate of officers and major committee nominations. For this year, several committee members from last year agreed to remain in their role for another year. I also made a point of recruiting newer members who had not held board positions. The most difficult part of this role is recruiting a vice-president because it is a 3-year commitment with the role of president requiring more time and leadership.
2. Attended annual LDEI conference in Newport Beach as a voting delegate. I found it to be valuable for learning more about our organization and how things are accomplished. Also, it is helpful to get a sense of the leadership of the organization and meet others in similar positions in other chapters.
3. Updated the bylaws to include appointing a current board member to be the Board Representative for the Micro-Grant Committee.
4. Provided support to chapter president when she needed additional input on issues and projects.

Secretary Report – Kristen Olson

- Attended and took notes at each of the board meetings this year.
- Provided documentation of the discussion and decisions made by the MN LDEI Board.
- Edit and resubmit board meeting minutes as needed for approval by the board.

Treasurer's Report – Merrilyn Tauscher

Our fiscal year runs from October 1 – September 30. The bullet point below reflects our financial summary as of August 31, 2018. The final budget and any additional updates as of September 30, 2018 will be presented to our board for the 2018-2019 year.

- Total Revenue
 - Income generated through August 2018 was \$32,525.86. This was primarily due to membership dues, program registrations and proceeds from our 2018 DameIt! Fundraiser.
- Total Expenses
 - Total expenses through August 2018 were \$34,007.74. Our main expenses included program expenses, dues to International, LDEI conference expenses, donations to Urban Roots, Scholarships and Micro-Grants.
- Closed Two Savings Accounts
 - The board approved closing the savings accounts for Scholarship and Urban Roots. These funds were transferred to checking and then given out as donations to the respective committees.
- Donations
 - We awarded \$9,000 in scholarships to two worthy young women, over \$3,000 in DameIt! Dollars Micro-Grants and \$5,588 to Urban Roots for their summer internship program and to help equip their kitchen.
- Audits
 - I checked into having an auditor look into our finances after reading about it in a recent quarterly newsletter. It is recommended if a group's budget is \$150,000 to \$200,000.
- Assets
 - We are in a good financial position with \$39,161.96 in our checking account.

Advisor Report – Ingrid Gangestad

It was a great pleasure to serve as the chapter advisor under the presidency of Janice Cole. My activities included meeting with Janice before the September 2017 Annual Meeting to turn over the business of the chapter and to update her on any pending international or chapter issues. Throughout the year, Janice reached out to talk over various issues or ideas for the chapter. The chapter was in great hands with Janice as president and she is commended for moving the chapter forward in creating a wonderful website, for increasing membership and for ensuring that the business of the chapter ran smoothly and efficiently.

Fundraising Report – Ingrid Gangestad

The Minnesota LDEI Board, committee members, attendees and vendors claim Dame It! 2018 a wild success. With record-breaking, sold-out attendance and profits more than double from 2017, members gave of their time, talent, pocket-books and network to make this the biggest event in recent chapter history.

Here are a few of the statistics the chapter can celebrate:

- More than 200 tickets sold, up from 103 in 2017.
- Introducing the Cake Walk, Spin-the-Wheel and Wine Pull added over \$2000 to the bottom line and brought energy to the event.
- Nine new and 11 returning vendors in food and beverage participated.
- Over \$7000 in Silent Auction Sales, up from \$5300 in 2017.
- 88% member participation.
- Net income more than \$20,000, up from just under \$10,000 in 2017

Overheard throughout the event were comments on the food, the signage, the venue and the fun. Chefs said this is an event they plan to come back to. Member volunteers talked about improvements and enhancements for 2019.

Membership Report – Cindy Jurgensen

The following four women were nominated and accepted our invitation to join:

Alyza Bohbot
Annette Maggi

Rose Daniels
Patsy Noble

Our recent tradition is to give each new member a flower arrangement and a Les Dames cap. We introduce them at the first meeting they attend and via their completed questionnaire in the newsletter. We have officially welcomed two of our new members to the group but still need to recognize Alyza. She hasn't had a chance to make it to her first meeting. We need to introduce Patsy in the newsletter and get Annette a welcome gift and hat. We haven't yet, but hope to soon, meet Amanda Archibald who transferred from the CO group last year.

With the board's input on questions I conducted a phone interview with 46 of the 50 members. A summary was given to the board and shared with members via email September 2018. It was a wonderful way to touch base with members. Through occasional phone calls and social media I also kept up with members throughout the year.

I revamped, with input from key board members, the content of the welcome/invitation packet and revised the Membership Fact Sheet, Potential New Member Form and Invitation Letter. I wrote a Nominate a New Member Instructions sheet and worked with Admin Deb to update the contact forms so that the annoying moving lines were done away with. The updated forms were emailed to members February 2018 with a note to 'share our passion for Les Dames'!

Admin Deb received several inquiries via the new website about Les Dames and about membership. I followed-up with each woman but so far none of the inquiries have led to a nomination. I think the option to inquire is good and will lead to new members as time goes on.

My hope for next year is to do a better job of mentoring our newest members so that they feel welcome and included. I'd also like to concentrate on retention, though so far only one member hasn't renew this year

compared with eight who didn't renew last year. I'd also like to write a few very short six-degree-of-separation blurbs for the newsletter from that question in the phone survey.

Emily Paul and I will Co-Chair Membership next year; I look forward to working with her and am excited to hear her ideas on increasing and diversifying our membership.

One retired Dame has elected not to renew her membership (we will miss Beth Quinn) during this renewal period though that number could increase as several have not yet renewed.

Membership during the 2017-18 settled at 50 as of September 7, 2018.

Program Report – Nikki Erpelding and Betsy Nelson

Organized and planned a variety of meetings for the group throughout the year with an emphasis on supporting women chefs, education and fun. In October we toured and had dinner at Open Arms while learning about their amazing mission; we had a private tour of Chankaska Winery, met at The Lynhall for a December social where we met one of our scholarship recipients Emily Pollack. In January we learned about dyes and made scarves, February brought an after-hours meeting at the Salty Tart with owner Michelle Gayer. In March we met at Red Dog Studios for a tour and talk about food styling and current photography practices followed by dinner at Bonicelli Kitchen. April was the fundraiser and in May we met at Finnegan's a woman-owned brewery. June was the Dinner en Blanc and July a pizza party with Urban Roots. August found us at another woman-owned eatery and fun space, Betty Danger's Country Club. We capped off our year with the Annual Meeting in September at Joan Semmer's.

Service Report – Joan Donatelle and Diane Jackson

There are many ways we supported Urban Roots this year:

- We contributed to thire Fundraising Gala through the Wine Wall, wine donations, and attendance

- The following members donated their time for Chef Classes:
 - Robin Asbel
 - B.J. Carpenter
 - Betsy Nelson
 - Diane Jackson
 - Audrey Nelson
 - Susan Moores

- July Garden Tour and Pizza

- We purchased kitchen wares and equipment for the Cook Fresh program:
 - Freezer-Whirlpool Upright
 - Water Bottles
 - Water Cooler
 - 2 Immersion Blenders
 - Cambro storage containers
 - Measuring Cups dry
 - Measuring Cups- liquid
 - Measuring spoons
 - Bar mops and Dish Towels
 - Bowls
 - Instant Read thermometers
 - Serrated bread knife
 - Other assorted knives
 - Shelf liners for cutting boards
 - Spiralizer
 - Gardening Gloves

- We also supported donated money to support additional interns for their programs.
- We spread the word via the Newsletter and Facebook

Newsletter (by Janice Cole for Kim Ode who is out of town)

Kim published 10 newsletters this year keeping the group informed about new members, events, upcoming meetings and more. Kim closely coordinated with Deb Zwiefelhofer to get the newsletters posted and out to the group in a timely manner.

Scholarship Report – Susan Peters and Joan Semmer 2018 LDEI Minnesota Scholar Awards

The Minnesota chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier is proud to announce its 2018 Scholars. Thanks to the financial success of the spring Dame It! fundraiser and donations to our chapters, we are awarding \$4,500 scholarships this year to two outstanding women: Emily Pollock and Nicole SanFilippo.

Emily Pollock

Emily was one of our 2017 LDEI Scholars. Her continued academic merit, leadership and community involvement garnered her another scholarship for 2018. Emily is attending St. Paul College with a GPA of 3.5. She graduates from the culinary arts program in December 2018 and will continue on for her bachelor's degree. She works at Oakridge Hotel and Conference Center in Chaska.

The Minneapolis chapter of the American Culinary Federation has awarded her scholarships in 2017 and 2018 and named her the ACF MPLS Student Chef of the Year and the recipient of the ACF MPLS Chairmen of the Board Award in 2018. She has volunteered at the LDEI Dame It! In 2017 and 2018, as well as at the Women Who Really Cook National conference 2018, Saint Paul Farmer's Market Competition 2017 and Perspectives (Kids Cafe).

Emily's goal is to teach people around her how to cook. She wants to work with middle school and high school students in underprivileged areas of the Twin Cities and manage/run an operation similar to Kids Café in Minneapolis.

Emily says, "I try to meet as many influential people as possible. One influential person I've met recently was Diane Yang from Bellecour and Spoon and Stable. I got to meet her during the Women Chefs and Restaurateurs National Conference weekend... trying her desserts led me to be inspired and I sent in my resume to her, she called me back! I have a stage with her on Monday June 4th... I don't know if I would have ever met her without first having met the Twin Cities Dames, and have them push me to reach for my goals."

The LDEI MN Scholarship Committee admires Emily's passion and resourcefulness. She also impresses us by going out of her comfort zone to seek excellence.

Nicole SanFilippo

Nicole is also attending St Paul College with a GPA of 3.7 (Dean's List). When she graduates from the culinary program at St Paul College in December, she plans to attend Metropolitan State University to earn her bachelor's degree. She works at Chef Shack and has a solid 15 year's past experience as cook and farm hand.

Nicole has volunteered at Roots for the Home Team, Les Dames Dame It! 2018, the Women Who Really Cook Conference and Charlie Awards.

Nicole says, "My vision is to open a cafe/bread bakery that also has a community garden that teaches people how to grow food and also an education piece where I have a classroom in the restaurant that teaches people of all ages how to cook. I envision starting a non-profit that educates women and marginalized groups on how to start their own business and using community to support each other in doing that."

The LDEI Scholarship Committee notes that Nicole immerses herself into multiple aspects of the food world: farming, cooking, teaching and entrepreneurship.

Dame It! Dollars: Micro-Grants Report - Barb Strand

This year we had 5 applications for the Dame It! Dollars Micro-Grant Awards. We accepted 4 of the applications. The one application that we did not accept was due to the fact that she worked for a company and the board felt that the money would benefit the company and not the applicant.

All the recipients received \$500 for a total of \$2,000. Last year we had 6 applicants and they each received \$500 for a total of \$3,000. Total grant awards from money raised the last two years at Dame It! is \$5,000. Way to go Dames!

Our screeners this year were Janice Cole, Joan Sumner and Barb Strand.

Our four recipients are:

Gwen M. Anderson. Gwen owns her own catering business, Cromatic Catering in Nothfield MN and is planning to expand her business to create a new line of wholesale foods, Local Plate, made from locally sourced products. She is using the money from the micro-grant to purchase some of the equipment that she will need for her new business.

Sue Kaku. Sue has her own business Kakookies, "better for you plant-based grab-n-go cookies made with superfood ingredients that satisfy hunger and sustain energy". She is using the money from the micro-grant to help defray some of the costs for attending the New Products Conference held in Minneapolis. Her goal is "to succeed as a Women Owned business and grow her Kookies a leader in the "Better For You" snack category."

Doria Martinez. Doria is a student at Saint Paul College and will use the money from the micro-grant to purchase new knives and new shoes needed to continue her studies. She is a full time student and also works in catering. Doria looks forward to working in a restaurant that closely works with local farmers to bring the best products to the table.

Marjorie (Marge) Porter. Marge used the money from the micro-grant to help defray the cost of attending the American Cheese Society annual conference "Forged in Cheese" in Pittsburg, PA. Marge is a Certified Cheese Professional and attending the conference helped her to continue her education and also to network with other professionals. Her goal is to "achieve career success include building relationships with customers that confidently inspire their food choices, becoming a trustworthy resource and consultant and educating and training people about cheese."