

Minnesota LDEI Chapter Board Meeting
May 1, 2019
6:30 pm
Audrey Nelson's home
4838 Aldrich Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55419

Attendees: Audrey Nelson, Liz Nerud, Janice Cole, Andi Bidwell, Merrilyn Tauscher, Cindy Jurgensen, Emily Paul, Ingrid Gangestad, Kristen Olson, Joan Donatelle

Call the Meeting to Order: 6:45 by president Audrey Nelson

Secretary's Report - Approved minutes from February 2019.

Treasurers Report: Merrilyn Tauscher

- Update on the Dame It Fundraiser event - 4 Swedish Hoorah's for our Fundraiser! We earned a total of \$26,714.76. Total Income \$32,994.80 less the expenses of \$6,280.04. Ticket sales were great! Approved treasurers report for both the treasurer update and Dame It update.

Old Business

- Membership – Financial Scholarship Proposal Update (will discuss in membership committee report)

New Business

- No new business

Committee Reports

President: Audrey Nelson

- All President's Call Report - Talked about membership on paying dues. Update from 3 people from Des Moines, Austin and Chicago spoke about how to stay relevant and engage new (and active) members in a crowded market with so many other fundraisers. There aren't very many memberships that are very diverse and the membership is looking to increase diversity as much as possible.
- General takeaways - we (MN chapter) are doing well since we are working towards more diversity but still have more work to do.

Vice President: Joan Donatelle

- It's time to start looking at nominations for the board for next year. What are people interested in and are there any members that should be recommended to apply. New members can be on a committee, need to be a member for 1 year before being on the board.
- Went to the Farmers Market Taste - a free event through eventbrite for media and local foodies to see a sneak peek of the farmers market before it launches. Joan attended and

looked for potential new members and possible micro-grant recipients - has some great contacts.

- Webinars - when you get the invites for them, they are well done and keep it to an hour. They are usually very interesting topics so if you see them, do your best to sign up and attend. Joan had attended a webinar on hosting events and received a lot of tips for asking for money and fundraising from other chapters that are successful.
- Heather Cofault - commented on the Dame It event on FB - She runs Prior to the Plate ArgiTours and has some great ideas to get people to understand that the farmers aren't bad, that they are helping the economy and are concerned about soil. Joan will share the information with The Good Acre and Urban Roots.

Program: Liz Nerud

- Upcoming Meeting at Fig and Farro on May 22nd to learn about climate change and how it relates to food. June - interested in going to Urban Roots for a meeting and helping out as possible. Discussion on how to charge for the upcoming event to welcome potential new members and the meal cost.
- Liz would like to continue to be on the board in the events and program role and is looking for a partner to split the committee. She will look at potential new members that might be interested in partnering and/or joining as a committee member or co-chair. Liz will post some info in the newsletter.
- In September, we will be having the Annual Meeting

Membership: Cindy Jurgensen and Emily Paul

- We currently have 53 members. We had 50 and then 3 rejoined. Cindy and Emily have updated the application form to reflect that it's not a nomination form anymore but an application form for potentially interested women in the industry. We want to see if they want to be a part of the team and welcome them as a guest so we can get to know them. Will we get information from them in the initial phase that we can use to reach out to them in the future when they might be ready to become a member. We can provide them information on the due's scholarship (financial aid), scholarships, microgrants and the legacy awards. We should do our best to keep potential members in mind and help them apply for the legacy award when possible.
- Cindy and Emily are looking at updating the bylaws for the membership section working to clean up the language around the different documentation and standardizing the different documents.
- They have created a membership tracker on google docs, for new members, potential members, interested but not right now, future prospects, and lapsed members. Should give Deb and the board access.
- Looking into adding 'are you interested in learning more about our scholarship...' on the application document. Emily and Cindy will research other chapters (and organizations) to see what type of qualifying questions might be appropriate to verify that they would qualify for the scholarships.
- Asked Laura Miller if she is interested in becoming a member, Beth Jones is also a prospective member. Nettie Colon is also Jenny Breen is also a potential member

prospect as well. Will also ask Heather Mannly and Michelle from Twin Spirits to see if she is interested. The new tracking will help to keep everyone aware of the status on members.

Scholarship: Andi Bidwell

- Mailing scholarship information to schools - the bigger schools are hardest to get in touch with. Since September 2018, the committee has sent three mailings with scholarship application forms to colleges, technical colleges and universities. They have received three applications to date - the deadline to receive them is June 1st.
- Last year we received 5 or 6, this year we have 3 which is decent. There is one that really stands out. It would be great to make inroads at the larger colleges. Why is the due date June 1st, can we move it up or move it back to accommodate when school is out? If so, the application form will need to be updated.
- The information should also go on the Dame It facebook page - they might know someone who is interested. Ingrid will post it to the page.
- Julie Grossman at the UofM CFANS would be a great contact and Emily will be sharing her contact info with Andi.
- Between June 1st and July 15th the committee tasks will include:
 - Committee members will review the applications and come to a consensus on which one(s) to give a scholarship to.
 - Call recipient(s) to make sure that nothing has changed - that they are still enrolled in school. We respond immediately but since the due date is June 1, they have been waiting for a few months.
 - Check references
 - Prepare a recommendation for the board
 - Send letter to each applicant to let them know if they were chosen or not for a scholarship.
 - Write a newsletter article to introduce the recipient(s) to our members.
 - Ask treasurer to send a check to the school that the recipient(s) are attending no later than September 1st.
- The budget is \$3,200 based on previous years. We might have more based on the success of Dame It this year and last year.
- Joan moved that we increase the scholarship budget this year. Seconded by Merrillyn and discussion on the 3 potential scholarship recipients and if they each should be awarded additional funds. Might be able to hold on the decision until the committee has had a chance to review. We can then come back and provide additional funds. Motion amended to provide an additional \$5,000 to come up to \$8,200 in funding for the scholarship committee to work with and divvy up between the applicants as they see fit. Motion seconded and approved.

Micro Grants: Janice Cole

- Committee met on Friday. We have only had 3 people apply. Are awarding grants to all 3. 2 of the 3 have received grants from us in the past. Discussion on how to increase it and make it more broadly shared with the community. Emily Paul has shared some recommendations on businesses and organizations that could be great resources for micro grant applications.
- In reviewing what the grant says it's for, we are trying to reword it to be less about professional development and courses and more about business promotion so that it can include a wider variety of opportunities. Also thinking about removing and changing the verbiage so that they aren't required to write a report. We are expanding the tag line on what it is for to make it broader than just for restaurant staff.
- If we up the amount (since we have the funds from the success of Dame It) from \$500 to \$1000 then we would have to request a 1099 form from the recipients. Emily has a contact who helps with pro bono tax preparation.
- Janice was at a conference and heard about the ability to have grants and scholarships available to members from an attorney with international LDEI. It cannot be anyone on the board since they are responsible for the finances of the organization. But, the other members could apply and it could be a great member benefit.
- Janice will review the information and verbiage on that and share it with the board when she has more information to share.
- Ingrid had a conversation with Lisa Carlson today who talked about the stipend for participating chefs at Dame It. A chef from WI that helped with the event received a donation of chicken and was very excited and able to help with their Dame It expenses. It's hard for small businesses to participate since they have to cover the costs (labor, grocery and supplies) for the event themselves.
- A lot of women in the Twin Cities have to turn it down awards (ie: James Beard Award) because they have to pay for travel, lodging, the food, the event and the employees - this could be a great way for us to help the community and spread the awareness about the organization. Could reach out to the James beard nominee/micro grant that can be spent on event promotion, Emily and Janice will partner and bring the membership and micro grant committees together to congratulate them on their nomination and offer them some support for the James Beard event.

Service: Diane Jackson and BJ Carpenter could not attend.

- Diane and BJ are waiting to hear back from Saba from Urban Roots about their outdoor kitchen. Their biggest priority might be payment for their summer intern staffing so our funds will go to support that.
- last year we gave around \$5,000 due to extra funds that we had from a savings account, this year we are marked for \$3,000. Discussion on if we should increase those funds due to the success of the Dame It fundraiser. Urban Roots is moving into their summer busy season, they would be able to really use the funding.
- Move to increase the budget for the service committee funds by \$5,000 to \$8,000 for this year. The Service committee will review and share the funds as they see fit. Seconded and approved.

Fundraising: Ingrid Gangestad

- Most fundraising recap has been covered in the Dame It recap meeting. Janice will be taking over the reins for Dame It from Ingrid. Janice contacted Chow Girls to confirm, the dates for next year's event. They will get back to us with a confirmation and possible dates when possible.

Newsletter: Kim Ode could not attend.

- Kim had nothing new to report for the newsletter.
- Deadline for the next newsletter is the 15th of the month.

Announcements: No announcements - Next board meeting will be in June.

Adjourn: 8:48 - Move to adjourn. Seconded and approved.