

Minnesota LDEI Chapter Annual Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2018 7:30pm
Joan Semmer's home

Call the Meeting to Order 7:41 by President Janice Cole.

In Attendance: Audrey Nelson, Ingrid Gangestad, Kristen Olson, Joan Donatelle, Cindy Jurgensen, Janice Cole, Merrilyn Tauscher, Susan Peters, Diane Jackson, Joan Semmer, Patsy Noble, Barb Strand, Robin Asbell, Betsy Nelson, Nikki Erpelding, Joan Donatelle, Lois Tlusty, Andi Bidwell, Paula Zuhlsdorf, Debra Zwiefelhofer, Cynthia Lind

Secretary's Report and Approval of the 9/28/17 Annual Board Meeting Minutes— Motion to accept minutes. Approved.

Presidents report: This year was a wonderful year. Dame It! was successful and a great event. It's a big accomplishment for our group. We had some great programming, set up a website for our MN chapter that we were able to use for the fundraiser. We are working to create a private page for the group with our website designer. The information for each member will be sent out soon. It will have the directory, bylaws, job descriptions, more in-depth information about each member, member minutes, policies and more. It will also have a job search section that you can post in if you have an opportunity that the group might like.

Patsy Noble introduced herself as a new member working with Urban Roots.

The MN LDEI Micro-Grant program for further education and equipment was launched this year. Barb will talk more about it and the great things that we are doing for the community. Cindy was given an award to help provide funds for her to attend the annual LDEI conference this year.

Treasurer's Report and Acceptance of May 2018 Financial Summary –

- In good shape this year! No big changes coming. Income - about \$32,000 mainly due to membership dues and the Dame It! fundraiser.
- Expenses - dues to international, member events, conference attendance and micro grants
- We used to have 2 savings accounts, this year we have closed them and we gave the funds to Urban Roots, Microgrants and Scholarships.
- Merrilyn has looked into getting an audit for the group. At this point we do not need an audit due to our lower amount of funds but we will look into it again in the future.
- Assets in our accounts are at about \$39,000.

Membership Chair:

- Cindy Jurgensen completed a full membership survey this year. It was really nice to touch base with everyone to see what you're thinking about the group. Appreciate that everyone was able to do that. The recap was provided by Deb. We currently have 50 members and are going through the member renewal process right now. This past year we had 4 new members.
- We have a spot on the new website so that guests can find out more information about the group, we've had 4 people reach out for more information that way and may be new members in the future.
- Cindy will be co-chairing the Member committee with Emily Paul who is looking forward to working with us.

Program Committee:

- Update from Nikki and Betsy. We had a lot of fun member events this year, some casual and some more formal. Focused on championing the female food professionals in the area. Great Urban Roots event, awesome fundraiser, Red Dog Studio tour, Open Arms event, dinner in white event and all sorts of great events to bring the group together. It's a challenging task to come up with fun and interesting events for everyone.
- Liz Nerud and Betsy Nelson will be co-chairing the committee next year.

Philanthropy:

- One of the bigger things that our group does is philanthropy. We work with Urban Roots and they have an amazing program. Chefs from the group go and cook with the kids. They have lots of events throughout the year which would be fun to go to for members. They have a fundraiser coming up in October. Our group took an inventory of the items that were needed by Urban Roots and then Diane purchased the items and brought them to the kids. They really appreciated it!

Scholarship:

- Susan and Joan co-chaired the Scholarship Committee and were told to spend the funds that had been held in our accounts for years. We generously gave more than \$9,000 to 2 lovely women who had volunteered at our fundraiser event. Both are students at Saint Paul College. Joan and Susan will be transitioning off of the scholarship committee and Andi and Paula will be taking over next year. It is a very rewarding thing to do for the group and for the women in food in our community.

Microgrants:

- Barb reported that MN LDEI received 5 applicants for the Microgrants this year, we accepted 4 of them. They were wonderful applicants from all ages and were excited to further their education.
- The first year we had 6 applicants and this year we had the 4, they all received \$500 Microgrants, something that we should be very proud of as a group. We need to help spread the word about the Microgrants, share it with our friends to get more applicants. It should be an attachment to the annual report so that we have it all in one place and can keep track of them. We created a poster this year for the Microgrants winners at Dame It to share the stories. Some of the recipients would be great new members.

Advisor: (also the chair person for Dame It! fundraiser)

- Ingrid reported that being the advisor was easy because Janice was amazing, we were so lucky to have great membership this year. Everyone chipped in with Dame It!, it wasn't easy but it was good. Meredith and Mary Jane are taking on their roles (focusing on the external connections) again for Dame It! and Ingrid will be doing more of the internal role to get volunteers for this year's event. Planning on having an initial meeting in early October. It will be in the same location (Chow Girls Solar Arts Space - March 31st) again.
- Ingrid is looking for someone to help out to lead this role. How are we getting a piece of the work from Dame It. Our gift to ourselves will be to reduce the program expenses. If you are participating in programs, some of them will be reduced by using the Dame It dollars. We've celebrated the event and are now looking forward to next year!

Admin:

- Deb is a great asset to our group! She has great contacts, is great with technology and is a wonderful problem solver!

- Some members are having issues with receiving email communication from the group. You should get a newsletter once a month, you should get a member meeting invite once a month and a reminder. So you should be getting about 4 emails per month from MN LDEI but with technology sometime things just don't work all that well. Deb is looking into it for us and will troubleshoot.
- We do voting for the board and the by-laws through Survey Monkey and there are 2 members that were not getting those since they unsubscribed for another reason.

Vice President:

- Audrey will be taking over as president next year with a new board. Audrey thanked Janice for all her hard work this year and has really enjoyed working with her. Joan is the VP, Janice is the counselor, Merrilyn is the treasurer, Kristen is the secretary, Kim Ode is newsletter, Andi and Paula are leading scholarship, Cindy and Emily will doing membership, Betsy and Liz will be doing programming, Diane is leading philanthropy. Audrey is looking forward to leading the group next year, excited to share the funds from our group with the community and will help to use some of the funds to invest in ourselves to keep meeting rates down and bring in speakers.

Call to adjourn the meeting 8:32, second and approved!

Meeting Minutes taken by Kristen Olson, Secretary