

MN LDEI - Board Meeting

October 7, 2020

Via Zoom

Minutes

Meeting Called to Order by Cindy Jurgensen at 6:07 pm.

President's News: Cindy Jurgensen welcomed new faces to the Board and reflected on Joan's past presidency. She had hoped we could meet in person but appreciated the time savings in not having to commute. This year's Annual Conference will be virtual; Cindy, Joan, Susan and Arlene are attending. LDEI did not raise dues this year and extended chapter dues deadline. Tanya's contract was renewed at \$20/hour. Perhaps we can give her a raise next year. Should we set a monthly time budget for her? Lois is looking for budget requests from committees.

Past President: Joan welcomed all and reminded us that there are Relief Funds available. She and Liz are researching potential recipients.

Vice President: Kristen is working on a fundraising page for the MN LDEI website. It will feature a way to donate directly from the site. Perhaps we can use it to sell gift cards donated for Dame It! 2020. She also mentioned her new larger studio space that is available for events.

Secretary's Report and Approval: Paula moves to approve. Joan seconds provided the amended Treasurer's report is included.

Treasurer's Report: Lois Tlusty discussed her report. (See attached.) She and Cindy are working on a budget. She suggested approving the budget at the meeting in December. Members should keep track of personal fundraising expenses to include in the budget.

Committee Reports

Communications/Social Media: Nikki Erpelding is head of this new committee to boost our social media exposure on Instagram and Facebook. Lois requested a budget and Nikki responded with \$250 to start. Nikki is working on objectives and asked for suggestions and feedback.

Fundraising: Andi Bidwell reported on the mini fundraisers. (See attached report for details.) Cindy thanked her and Audrey Nelson for getting an early start. They will email budget request to Lois after meeting with Liz and Nikki about the Cheese and Wine boxes.

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Membership: Paula Zuhlsdorf represented this committee. Carla Mertz is a new member officially in October 2020. We welcomed her at the October Iron Shoe Farm meeting (her farm!) Paula asked about the budget and funds available for membership. Last year we provided \$111.25 in membership assistance. Joan is hoping we can reduce this amount but still have funds available. Paula proposes reducing membership budget from \$400 to \$300.

Newsletter: Marge Porter has created a new newsletter format. She thanked everyone for the positive feedback. The links to articles are immediate. She is also able to track users through Mail Chimp. There is a dedicated email box for submitting articles that should be submitted by the 20th of each month. Shorter articles might be advantageous as longer ones will be converted to PDF's. She is looking for articles to include as this a public newsletter. It will be published the 1st Saturday of each month.

Program: Amy Brown provided the update for this committee. Their budget is not ready yet but should be within a month. The program surveys from last year very helpful and will be used again this year for virtual programs. The October program is on the 29th and will feature a Halloween theme with boxes containing ingredients for a cocktail, 3 different snacks and a sound track. Contact Amy if you want to help prep boxes at the Solar Arts building prior to the program. Amy and Amalia have 6 months of ideas but are specifically looking for ideas for November and for April which is Dame It! Month. Arlene is scheduled for February. There will be some crossover with fundraising and programs and Amalia might do another Dinner at Home for Cinco de Mayo.

Scholarship: Susan Peters represented this committee and thanked everyone especially Andi and Audrey for their fundraising efforts. Initially for the 2019-20 year they had planned on two \$5000 scholarships but scaled back to one \$3000 scholarship and one \$2000 scholarship. For the 2020-2021 year she proposed one at \$2500. Susan has reached out to recent recipients and invited them to events but has not had a response. She mentioned that it's a tough year for everyone and difficult to mentor.

Microgrants: Joan Donatelle spoke for this committee that she chairs with Liz Nerud. They have not had a chance to meet yet but are very excited to give money. They have set a budget of \$500 to start. Joan also mentioned that LDEI has funds for those in need of help because of Covid. Lois stated that the chef that received a microgrant last year put together the very successful Dinner at Home boxes.

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Service: BJ Carpenter and Jenny Breen both spoke about service. Last year we presented Urban Roots with \$5000. This committee is hoping for the same amount this year which would pay Urban Roots' interns. They had a tough year as everything had to be outside and many events were cancelled. Urban Roots does have additional financial support but they were able to set up their kitchen with the donations they received from MN LDEI. WE can encourage personal participation through donations. Joan made wonderful baskets for their silent auction. The new Urban Roots director expressed their thanks to us for our support.

Lois brought up providing Board Meeting highlights to members as stated in the bylaws. Cindy will send meeting highlights to editor Marge to include in the Newsletter - after the minutes have been approved by the board. .

Cindy Jurgensen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Joan Donatelle seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:10.

Minutes submitted by Genie Zarling, Secretary.