

Minutes

Meeting Called to Order by Cindy Jurgensen at 6:36 pm.

In Attendance: Cindy Jurgensen, Kristen Olson, Genie Zarling, Janice Cole, Patsy Noble, Liz Nerud, Susan Peters, Arlene Coco, Andi Bidwell, Merrilyn Tauscher, Joan Donatelle, Nikki Erpelding, Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

Absent: Lois Tlusty, Jenny Breen, BJ Carpenter, Amy Brown, Audrey Nelson, Paula Zuhlsdorf, Joan Semmer

Committee Reports

Newsletter: Janice Cole and Patsy Noble

Patsy spoke about compatibility issues between the newsletter and mobile phones. She thought that our premium registration would help with formatting but she has had to make a lot of adjustments herself. She has enlisted Tanya's assistance. The new features, including trends by Julie Hinderks, are a great success. Janice appreciates members' quick responses with fun ideas and links. Additions are always welcome, please try to submit them by the 20th of the month.

Microgrants: Liz Nerud and Joan Donatelle

Information about applying for a Microgrant was posted on our Facebook page and the MN LDEI website in March. There have been no applicants to date. Joan encouraged everyone to repost the information on our personal Facebook pages. They are anxious to give away the funds for Microgrants. Liz reminded us to "put on our thinking caps."

Fundraising: Andi Bidwell and Audrey Nelson

Andi read her committee's report.

The total profit from our fifth mini-fundraising event for this fiscal year was \$2,280.50. This total includes a donation of \$33.68 from Kim Olson, our Vice President Kristen Olson's sister. It brings our total for fundraising events for this fiscal year to \$15,792.82.

We are still planning two mini events before this fiscal year is over:

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June 2, 2021

Via Zoom

The first is a Pizza and Salad in a Box event on July 15th, being planned by members Nikki Erpelding, Amalia Moreno-Damgaard and Pam Powell.

The last event for this year will be an Italian Wine Diner at the Sovereign Estates Winery in Waconia on the evening of August 18th. This event is lead by Joan Donatelle with help from Cindy Jurgensen and Erin Clancy.

As always, Kristen Olson supports all of our events with setting up the ticket sales and posting on the Les Dames website.

Communications/Social Media: Nikki Erpelding

Nikki said there was not much to report. There is a lull in social media. She would really like to see members giving her content.

Program: Amy Brown and Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

Amalia suggested that she add a blurb to the newsletter about our programs that have been taped and available on YouTube. She will send links to Janice. She also suggested that we market beyond email and our website with additional platforms. She will follow up with appropriate board members.

On June 21 there will be a planning meeting for the September 29th Annual Meeting with Amalia, Amy, Kristen and Cindy. It will be a combination Annual Meeting and 25th Anniversary celebration held at Kristen's Studio Q.

She has followed up with Urban Roots about the salad for the event on June 10th.

Scholarship: Susan Peters and Arlene Coco

Susan said that they only have 4 scholarship applicants (one of which is not complete). Usually there are 10-20 applications. She isn't sure why there are so few. The deadline was May 31st but has been extended. They will review applications in mid-June and send recommendations to the Board. \$2500 is budgeted which can be given to one recipient or divided.

Membership: Paula Zuhlsdorf and Merrillyn Tauscher

Merrilyn spoke about our newest member, Allison Sheardy, from Rustic Roots Winery in Scandia. Nikki has agreed to be her mentor. She and Paula are thinking of adding “how did you hear about Les Dames?” to the membership application. She thanked Kristen and Tanya for helping merge their information with information on a different drive started by previous Membership chairs. She is very pleased with the new members. She requested time in the Annual Meeting agenda to introduce the new members as well as give them their gifts.

Service: Jenny Breen and BJ Carpenter.

Neither BJ or Jenny were able to attend the meeting. No report was submitted.

Grants: Joan Semmer

Joan was unable to attend the meeting. Cindy read her report that follows.

1. Lauren and Susan are helping to develop digital promotional materials. Susan is recruiting former scholarship recipients to get testimonials about how the scholarships impacted their studies and careers. Lauren is going to develop the materials which will be used during fundraising and when we apply for grants. We need to figure out why a funder would want to support us.
2. I will concentrate on two activities this summer: Give to the Max day which occurs in November and corporate fundraising aimed at Minnesota food companies. If anyone has connections, please let me know.
3. We need to strategize as a chapter what our vision is for fundraising and applying for grants. How important is philanthropy to our chapter? What kind of individual and collective effort are we willing to make? How do we grow Dame It! Are there other food and wine related events we could participate in to raise funds?

Discussion was postponed until Joan was present.

Executive Committee

Vice President: Kristen Olson

Kristen had 3 topics to discuss in her report.

1. Diversity Training sessions have been arranged by LDEI. Kristen attended along with Cindy and Lois. The first session was incredible and she will share her experience in the Newsletter. There may still be an opportunity to sign up for the remaining sessions. Let Kristen, Cindy or Lois know if you are interested.
2. She is making progress filling positions on the new Board.
3. She is directing a major clean-up of our Google Drive. Board members are responsible for gathering and cleaning their committee files. She is preparing a video that will outline the necessary steps to create separate folders: an archive folder, a 2020-21 folder and a 2021-22 folder. Organizing our files will help us stay focused on our mission.

Secretary's Report: Genie Zarling

Genie said she would send a Get Well card to BJ. She encouraged members to let her know if other members have experienced surgery or illness that might not be known to the whole group so that she can send them a card.

Genie brought up the idea of name tags for Programs as a way of making sure everyone, especially new members, feels like they belong. Discussion followed. Merrilyn and Paula will research permanent name tags with magnets to protect members' clothing.

Treasurer's Report: Lois Tlusty

Lois was unable to attend the meeting. Cindy read her report the follows.

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LDEI Board Meeting

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Treasurer's Report

Checking Account Balance: (May 24, 2021): \$29,333.12

April, 2021

Total Income: \$4,189.48

Total Expenses: \$568.45

Balance On-Hand (4/26/2021): \$31,721.97

May, 2021

Total Income: \$138.68

Total Expenses: \$2,527.53

Balance On-Hand (5/24/2021): \$29,333.12

The April income was from the mini fundraiser, Dinner for Two Puerto Rico & The Canary Islands. The expenses were 2 months admin support and MailChimp. May income was program and a fundraiser donation. Expenses were Red Hen Gastrolab (fundraiser invoice), checks and admin support.

Submitted by

Lois Tlusty

Lois Tlusty

2020-2021 MN LDEI Treasurer

New Business: Cindy Jurgensen

Cindy continued the discussion that Amalia began when she explained her role on the Diversity Task Force. Amalia said that her experience on the Task Force was often uncomfortable but her time was well spent on this issue that is much overdue. A 45-page report was produced and she will share more of her experience with us in the future.

Cindy highlighted that Austin Chapter's Zoom presentation was a good place to start as we begin to explore DEI. It will not be easy and it is certain to be uncomfortable. We will have to work hard but it will be worth it and it is the right thing to do.

As encouraged by LDEI, Cindy proposed adding a DEI Committee to our Board. Amalia and Nikki signed on to be co-chairs with Cindy as Advisor. Kristen moved to add a DEI position for the 2021-22 Board. Discussion followed. In emails to Cindy, board members suggested money for a budget so that we could provide an honorarium for speakers and perhaps waive fees for new members to increase diversity. International will be sending out a Tool Kit to assist Chapters in forming this new position. A vote was held and the motion carried unanimously at 7:23.

President's News: Cindy Jurgensen

St Louis is our assigned sister chapter. She's sent them links to our virtual programs. They may have an idea for a joint fundraiser! Not sure what to think about that other than wait and see?! If she receives links to their programs and newsletter, she will post them on our FB page. Tanya added them to the mailing list for virtual programs. Patsy added them to her Mailchimp list for the newsletter.

We have Informal/unofficial relationships with several chapters. Some of us have participated in programs with chapters in South Florida, Des Moines and Vancouver. We've invited the Milwaukee chapter to the Argentinian wine tasting and 2 guests from the Mexico chapter spoke to us over Zoom on Cinco de Mayo.

The LDEI board voted not to increase dues for 2022. When COVID hit, the board voted to keep the 2020-2021 dues at \$85. Dues are supposed to be \$100 just so we're aware if the board reverts to the vote taken in 2019.

Global Culinary Initiative: incredible handbook developed by GCI committee to aid event planning to raise cultural awareness. They suggest a global-centric dinner for chapter

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fundraiser.

LDEI Board Treasurer is drafting a toolkit for chapters use. Lois spent time gathering info as LDEI puts together a Treasurer Toolkit.

There will be an email vote by the Council of Delegates in late July or early August on the Membership Modernization changes. Right now that's me and Kristen.

Consider attending the 2021 annual conference in San Antonio in October 14-17. The chapter has been working so hard to bring this to us in person.

Our chapter's Women of Purpose choice was Nashville Dame Tallu Schuyler Quinn. Thank you to the several of you who slogged through the gazillion entries! (We gave feedback on that.) She is a strong candidate plus she is enduring terminal brain cancer.

The Vine Room chose Urban Roots for the April Cause of the Month per Nikki's recommendation. Thank you Nikki!

Joan Donatelle asked if we can include recipients of microgrants and scholarships on our website. Scholarship information is already available there. Kristen said she will put up microgrant recipient information if someone will send it to her. Janice said that she would find it and send it to Joan and Kristen. The amount of the microgrant will not be listed on the website. To protect their privacy, the recipient's permission will be needed to use their information and picture on our website or for promotional material. Permission will not be required to apply for a Microgrant.

Cindy thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.

Minutes submitted by Genie Zarling, Secretary.