

MN LDEI - Board Meeting

August 25, 2021

Via Zoom

Minutes

Meeting Called to Order by Cindy Jurgensen at 6:35 pm.

In Attendance: Cindy Jurgensen, Lois Tlusty, Kristen Olson, Genie Zarling, Janice Cole, Susan Peters, Andi Bidwell, Merrilyn Tauscher, Joan Donatelle, Amy Brown, Audrey Nelson, Joan Semmer, Audrey Nelson

Absent: Nikki Erpelding, Amalia Moreno-Damgaard, Jenny Breen, BJ Carpenter, Paula Zuhlsdorf, Patsy Noble, Arlene Coco

Committee Reports

Grants: Joan Semmer

Joan represented her committee. A recap of her report follows.

The Grant Committee is a new committee for our LDEI chapter. Its objective is to raise money for scholarships and mini grants by asking public and corporate foundations for financial assistance.

To date they have applied for one grant from the Minneapolis Foundation. It was to help women in the food and beverage industry who were financially affected by the civil unrest following George Floyd's death. This grant application focused on providing mini grants and mentoring. They did not get the grant, but learned two things.

1. The Minneapolis foundation prefers to give money directly to recipients and we were viewed as a pass-through organization.
2. MN LDEI is not viewed as a philanthropic organization. The philanthropic community does not know who we are.

Going forward, the Grants committee's plan is to:

1. Build awareness of MN LDEI as a philanthropic organization.
2. Formalize a list of public foundations in Minnesota with contact information on key players. Start to build relationships.
3. Formalize a list of Minnesota corporations engaged in the food, beverage and hospitality industries. This would include companies such as General Mills, Land O' Lakes, Cargill, Phillips, Radisson, Hormel, and restaurant chains headquartered in Minnesota. Identify who is in charge of their corporate giving and identify their grant cycles. Start to build relationships.
4. Prepare our chapter for involvement in MN "Give to the Max" day this November.
5. Continue to stay linked into the LDEI national focus on grants
6. Build marketing materials to accompany grant proposals.

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Membership: Merrilyn Tauscher and Paula Zuhlsdorf

Merrilyn discussed nametags for programs and events that the membership committee purchased. She and Paula weighed the costs of permanent v. paper nametags and the executive board approved the use of paper nametags with reevaluation at the end of a year. The sticky back nametags are printed with our logo for members and plain ones are available for guests. 200 nametags were only \$49.00.

At the annual meeting they would like to welcome and recognize the new members. Each new member will be given two Kerrygold cheeses and one butter. They thought this would be a nice way to show support for one of our corporate sponsors.

So far, 35 members have paid their dues. Amanda Archibald and Ramaj Young have moved and Carla Mertz resigned stating COVID hardship as the reason for her departure. Cindy and Merrilyn were going to make reminder calls on August 29th to those that hadn't paid. Merrilyn also discussed some of the new membership requirements that LDEI voted on, including the following: potential members must sign a code of ethics form, conflict of interested disclosure statement, conflict of interest policy and letter of recommendation from a current or retired Dame.

Fundraising: Andi Bidwell and Audrey Nelson

Andi read her committee's report.

Fundraising Committee Report for the Board Meeting on August 25th, 2021

A Summer in Tuscany wine Dinner on August 18th at the Sovereign Estate Winery was our last fundraising event for this fiscal year 2020-2021. We sold 83 tickets at \$100.00 each for a 5-course dinner with wines paired for each course.

The profit from the event totaled \$6,297.54 after paying for all of our expenses, which was the highest profit raised of all seven mini events we hosted. In addition, we received more than \$704.84 of in-kind donations from members and \$1,800.00 in-kind donations from the Sovereign Estate Winery.

The dinner was prepared by member **Joan Donatelle** and her husband David along with their son Vinnie and his wife Julia.

Many thanks to our Les Dames fundraising committee: **Joan Donatelle** (for suggesting an evening the winery, preparing our food and hosting the evening along with her husband David), **Cindy Jurgensen** (for all of the pretty floral centerpieces), **Erin Clancy** (for finding a low-cost rental company for the table cloths and flatware and then hauling them to and from the rental

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store), **Audrey Nelson** (for helping with set up and serving the meals...and the balloon bouquets), **Kristen Olson** (for our AV set up) and also to our former fundraising committee member **Merrilyn Tauscher** (for helping with the nametags and check in process). **Lauren Voight** helped us out with handling our social media. Our beautiful logo was designed by our talented graphic-design artist and member **Pam Powell**.

Thanks also to our Treasurer **Lois Tlusty** for keeping track of our budget and finances for this crazy pandemic year when we hosted seven Dame It! Mini-Fundraising Events! More thank should go to the Dudes: Rusty Nelson, Dave Tauscher, Curt Jurgensen and Jack Bidwell for helping with setting the tables collating the recipes and helping with the check-in.

Finally, we owe a special thanks to all of our members who purchased tickets for this event, bought raffle tickets, made a donation or helped to promote the event on social media. In addition, the fundraising committee would like to thank all of the members who shared this event on their social media sites and to their email lists.

As for the raffle drawing, Dame **Joan Semmer** won Magical Evening at the Winery valued at \$650.00!

She spoke briefly about the fundraiser. She thanked Merrilyn, Lois, The Dudes, and the members who attended. She also mentioned the event graphics and beautiful scarves that Pam Powell designed. Fifteen percent of the attendees completed the post event survey, most responses were excellent or very good. For future events like this she suggested greeters to help with seating and general information as many guests did not know about the cash bar.

She will prepare another report for the annual meeting and remarked that it was a good year.

Audrey spoke next. She said that Andi was AMAZING! and out performed the whole committee. She pointed out that we have a core group of attendees, committee members and volunteers. She hopes we will become more inclusive and that more members “buy in” to our mission. Discussion followed about how best to achieve that goal. Two options were presented: an online survey sent out to members about fundraising or a brain storming session during the annual meeting. After a round robin poll it we decided to offer a Coffee Zoom Meeting focused on fundraising and providing a suggestion box at the annual meeting. She thinks we should give a ‘shout out’ at the annual meeting to members that have completed surveys.

Communications/Social Media: Nikki Erpelding

Nikki just started a new job and was unable to attend. She said she was sorry for not having done much lately.

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Microgrants: Joan Donatelle and Liz Nerud

Joan told us about a new applicant for a microgrant. Dana Smith of MinnyRow Market in Hopkins has asked for funding to purchase new tables and chairs. The Market started out as a grocery store but is transforming itself into a deli. Because microgrants are in the budget we did not need to vote but could rely on Joan's recommendation. Dana will purchase the chairs and tables, give the receipts to Joan, who will then get a check from Lois. Joan and Liz will present the check to Dana at the Market

Programs: Amy Brown and Amalia Moreno-Damgaard

The program committee is finalizing the details for the Annual Meeting. They are waiting to send out the invitations, but they should be out by September. She already met with Kim Ode, Program co- Chair for 2021-22. All 12 months are planned out. It will be an exciting and diverse year. Rick Nelson will speak in October, maybe at the Lynhall. They are looking for more volunteer opportunities. And Chowgirls Catering is looking for workers if anyone knows someone who is looking for catering work.

Newsletter: Janice Cole and Patsy Noble

Janice gave her committee's report. She asked Amy for additional details about the Annual Meeting. The newsletter for August will be come out after Labor Day as she and Patsy have both been very busy. They are still unhappy with our paid version of MailChimp. Patsy is checking with Tanya who will hopefully be able to help resolve the issues.

Scholarship: Susan Peters and Arlene Coco

Susan said that it's a quiet time and that she had nothing to report.

Service: Jenny Breen and BJ Carpenter.

Neither BJ or Jenny were able to attend the meeting. BJ is set to retire. She is looking forward to devoting more time to MN LDEI and Urban Roots. In addition to co-chairing the Service Committee with Jenny she will be teaching more at Urban Roots.

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Executive Committee

Treasurer's Report: Lois Tlusty

Lois said that we are doing well, our August balance is \$28,460. She was amazed at how well the mini-fundraisers did. Not all of our expenses are reflected in the current budget report but they should balance out in September. The fee that PayPal charges us to process membership dues went up a bit but we had been paying a corporate rate so after adjusting to the non-profit rate it will be a little less expensive. Regarding our name change, Lois will send Joan Semmer a copy of the name change from the Secretary of State. She has not talked to the IRS but has mailed everything in and has asked for a letter of confirmation. She thinks that Tanya can make the change on the 1099.

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Treasurer's Report

Checking Account Balance: (August 23, 2021): \$28,460.51

June, 2021

Total Income: \$1,929.60

Total Expenses: \$262.49

Balance On-Hand (6/24/2021): \$31,005.23

July, 2021

Total Income: \$2,100.85

Total Expenses: \$4,428.77

Balance On-Hand (7/27/2021): \$28,677.31

August, 2021

Total Income: \$4,492.60

Total Expenses: \$3,446.24

Balance On-Hand (8/23/21): \$28,460.51

The June income was from the June program registration and the Pizza Box fundraiser.

The July income was primarily from the Pizza Box fundraiser. The expenses were the scholarship donations, June program expenses and Ultimate Events 50% down payment for the Tuscany Wine Dinner.

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The August income and expenses are primarily the Tuscany Wine Dinner fundraiser and 2021-22 dues. There will be additional fundraiser, dues and program income and fundraiser, International dues and program expenses in September. At this time, there is still \$6,175 for Urban Roots (\$5,000 budgeted/\$1,000 grant/\$175 donation) and \$1,300 Micro-Grants (\$1,000 budgeted/\$300 donations) in the budget.

Submitted by

Lois Thusty

Lois Thusty

2020-2021 MN LDEI Treasurer

Vice President: Kristen Olson

She has 23 votes to approve her Board recommendations for next year. She is working on getting full approval from the rest of the members. The DEI classes that were offered by LDEI are done. When they are offered again she hopes that more members from our chapter attend. She is looking forward to the International Conference in San Antonio.

Secretary's Report: Genie Zarling

Genie had nothing new to report. The Minutes from the Board Meeting on June 2, 2021 were approved online by all members.

President: Cindy Jurgensen

Urban Roots is looking for wine donations for their fundraiser on September 30th. Cindy has 15 bottles donated by Ingrid Gangestad, who transferred her membership to South Florida when she moved. She donated them to the chapter from miscellaneous events at their house. Cindy encouraged members to donate additional bottles. Mary Levinski has bacterial pneumonia. Committee reports are due by September 1 so that Cindy can email them to members before the Annual Meeting.

Tanya has requested a pay increase of \$2/hour, currently she make \$20/hour. She is also the administrator for FCSP and they have agreed to her salary increase. After a motion to raise her hourly wage by \$2/hour, discussion followed. Members thought that we should match the other organization, that she was well worth it and that her job performance was getting better. A job review was also suggested. A vote was taken and her pay raise by \$2/hour was unanimously approved.

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Cindy thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

Minutes submitted by Genie Zarling, Secretary.