

Minnesota Les Dames d'Escoffier International Board Meeting
October 6, 2021
Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting Called to Order by Kristen Olson at 6:37pm

In Attendance: Kristen Olson, Merrilyn Tauscher, Julie Hinderks, Lauren Voight, Joan Donatelle, Amy Brown, Kim Ode, Susan Peters, BJ Carpenter, Cindy Jurgensen, Lois Tlusty, Paula Zuhlsdorf, Genie Zarling

Absent: Joan Semmer, Janice Cole, Patsy Noble, Jenny Breen, Nikki Erpelding

President: Kristen Olson

The following MN LDEI 2021-2022 Slate of Executive Officers was voted by the members and approved:

President: Kristen Olson
Vice President: Paula Zuhlsdorf
Treasurer: Lois Tlusty
Secretary: Genie Zarling

Congratulations to the new officers and thank you for serving.

Following is the 2021-2022 MN LDEI Board of Directors:

President: Kristen Olson
Vice President: Paula Zuhlsdorf
Advisor: Cindy Jurgensen
Treasurer: Lois Tlusty
Secretary: Genie Zarling
Communications/Social Media: Lauren Voigt
Fundraising Co-chairs: Erin Clancy & Julie Hinderks
Grants: Jo Semmer
Membership: Merrilyn Tauscher
Newsletter Co-chairs: Janice Cole & Patsy Noble
Program Co-chairs: Amy Brown & Kim Ode
Scholarship: Susan Peters
Microgrants: Joan Donatelle
Service: Jenny Breen & BJ Carpenter

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Co-chairs: Nikki Erpelding & Cindy Jurgensen

Kristen commented on the successful Annual Meeting and how great it was to see everyone. Please feel free to reach out to her if the need arises.

Vice-President : Paula Zuhlsdorf

Paula had no report. She is happy to be on the Board as Vice President. She is looking forward to supporting other Board members so please ask her if you need help.

Treasurer's Report: Lois Tlusty

As of October 1, 2021, we have \$32,342.68 in the checking account.

The last invoice was received for fiscal 2020-21 and so the Budget and Finance Statement which will be completed and filed.

We have a balanced 2020-21 budget plus additional income to replace the \$11,000 we used from the checking account in 2019-20 due to canceling the Dame It! fundraiser. We were able to achieve this due to the success of the mini fundraisers, program expenses less than income and several grants and monetary donations.

The committee have suggested the following for the 2021-2022 budget:

- Scholarship (Susan Peters): \$5,000
- Microgrant (Joan Donatelle): \$1,500
- Membership (Merrilyn Tauscher): \$300
- Fundraising (Julie Hinderks): It was suggested that Fundraising would have a profit of \$25,000-\$30,000 with expenses of \$15,000. Lois will start with the \$25,000 profit which Julie and Erinc can change within the next week or two if necessary.

Lauren Voigt will provide the budgeted amount for Communication/Social Media. Last year we budgeted \$250 for social media. Lauren said she will think about possible expenses for the Holiday Box and Dame It! Kim Ode and Amy Brown will provide Program income/expenses. Lois is aiming for a balanced budget and mentioned that maybe we can revisit money to give out if we make more money.

She will work with President Kristen Olson to complete the 2021-2022 budget and submit it to the board for approval.

Joan Donatelle suggested that we put money into promotion for scholarship, membership and microgrants. It's a great time to expand and will reflect better on us when applying for grants.

Secretary's Report: Genie Zarling

The Minutes from the Board Meeting on August 25, 2021 were approved online by all members.

Genie asked that Committee Chairs with detailed reports email them to her ahead of time before future Board meetings.

Committee Reports:

Grants: Joan Semmer

Joan was absent. No report was provided.

Membership: Merrilyn Tauscher

Currently we have 46 members, 7 members did not renew for various reasons. Everyone should have received an email asking for updates to the directory. Please respond by Sunday if you have corrections or additions. Cindy will help Merrilyn with the updates before the information is sent to Tanya. She asked us to think about ideas for new members, mentioning how she reached out to Lisa from Lucky Street at the Annual Meeting. She also updated access to the Chapter Facebook page. Kristen encouraged everyone to share their Instagram feeds in the directory.

Fundraising: Julie Hinderks

Julie and Erin met with Cindy to learn what worked and what didn't during the pandemic. They want to ensure that fundraising is profitable. Erin is out of the country but reached out to Liz and Nikki about the Holiday Boxes. Julie had a debriefing session with Janice, Meredith and Kristen about Dame It! 2022 and the Holiday Boxes. With all the changes in the world will Dame It! be as profitable as in past years? Their goal is to lock down the event space and date, possibly the end of April or early May. Wine glasses for the event are ready to go and in storage in Cindy's basement.

Social Media and Communications: Lauren Voigt

Lauren did not have a lot to report. She was super happy to learn that social media accounts will be added to the directory. Her goal is frequent posting and would like more

content from members. She suggested adding a “sign up to hear more from us” button on the website. Social media and its role in promoting events and fundraisers was discussed.

Microgrants: Joan Donatelle

Joan reported that we only gave out one microgrant last year. It was hard to get people to apply because they were so busy but she thought it would be easier this year. She has requested \$1500 for three \$500 microgrants. She sees microgrants as an opportunity to get our name out in the community, a way to convey who we are and what we do, and a line to mentoring and membership. She is glad to be involved and is looking forward to making personal connections.

Programs: Amy Brown and Kim Ode

There should be an Evite in everyone’s mailbox for the October 28th meeting with Rick Nelson from the StarTribune. Rick wants to answer questions and would prefer not to “drone on”. Kim will facilitate the discussion.

They have selected most of the meeting topics and locations for the rest of the year with a few dates TBD.

November~ Saturday Morning Coffee Klatch featuring a Social Media panel. This will be the only ZOOM meeting of the year.

December~ Holiday Party at Joan Semmer’s.

January~ A “non-meeting” meeting at Open Arms. They are accepting groups of 8-12 volunteers, perhaps we can fill 2 shifts. Sign up will be first come, first served.

February~ Rose McGee.

March~LDEI Table Talk or an event at a new restaurant.

April~ Dame It! 2022

Options they are considering for the summer are a tour of the Hmong market and an Urban Roots event. Someone mentioned that Dorothy Stainbrook hosts an Heirloom Tomato Fest.

Newsletter: Janice Cole and Patsy Noble

Neither Janice or Patsy were able to attend. They sent the following report:

We are looking for ideas on how members could better network. Members can reply directly to Janice or me.

How can we boost sharing our professional connections, experience, and developing work? One option is to ask members to send quick updates as to what’s happening in

their professional lives to help us all better know each other and to spur more networking. We're also exploring featuring a different MN dame each month and asking the question: how can dames better support/mentor each other in their work/business? Retired dames are a perfect fit for budding entrepreneurs!

Scholarship: Susan Peters

Susan regularly invites scholarship recipients to meetings. Alyson Hornby will join us for the October meeting. Alyson is at the University of Minnesota in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) Department. She expects to graduate with her bachelor's degree in December, 2021. Alyson's area of study is dietetics with a special interest in holistic and Eastern approaches to well being. Her extracurricular activities support this area of study and she is a very active volunteer.

Service: BJ Carpenter and Jenny Breen

BJ proposed that we cut back our financial commitment to Urban Roots. In 2021 we donated \$4000 and member Pam Powell donated \$1000. Urban Roots has secured donations from large corporations and completed construction on a very impressive new building. She proposed that we donate \$3500 and contribute with in-kind donations, large corporations give money but not advice. BJ will teach more at Urban Roots and suggested that we offer mentoring for entrepreneurs. She will write an article for the newsletter. Lois mentioned how much Urban Roots has grown in the years of our support and thought that we should look for other gardening groups.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Cindy Jurgensen and Nikki Erpelding

Cindy and Nikki haven't met yet but will soon. Cindy had nothing to report.

New Business:

There was no new business. The next Board meeting will be in December and Kristen will send out an email. The meetings will still be on ZOOM which is a very efficient use of our time and natural resources.

Kim moved to adjourn the meeting, Paula seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.