

Minnesota Les Dames d'Escoffier International Board Meeting
February 2, 2022
Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:32 pm by President Kristen Olson.

In Attendance: Kristen Olson, Julie Hinderks, Lauren Voigt, Patsy Noble, Susan Peters, BJ Carpenter, Janice Cole, Arlene Coco, Lois Tlusty, Paula Zuhlsdorf, Genie Zarling, Liz Nerud, Kim Ode, Erin Clancy

Absent: Joan Semmer, Cindy Jurgensen, Nikki Erpelding, Merrilyn Tauscher, Amy Brown, Joan Donatelle

Secretary's Report: Kristen Olson

The approved Minutes from the December meeting are available on the website.

Treasurer's Report: Lois Tlusty

Lois reviewed a few lines from the budget.

MN LDEI Board Meeting Report
February 3, 2022

As of January 30, 2022, we have \$34,772.15 in the checking account.

The key income:

- \$13,915.59 Holiday Party in-a Box fundraiser
- \$300 for MN Give to the Max donations

The key expenses:

- \$781 LDEI insurance
- \$7,781.87 Holiday Party in-a Box items
- \$307.13 Site Ground 2-year renewal
- \$51.38 Andi Bidwell's mother's memorial
- \$107 for the State Fair Award

The IRS 990N e-postcard was filed for MN LDEI 2021 taxes.

Lois Tlusty MN LDEI Treasurer

Old Business:

There was no old business;

New Business:

President Kristen Olson commented that a lot of new info has come through from International, including that Grand Dame applications are due February 28th. In the past, we've nominated Julie Jones, Susan Moores and Beatrice Ojakangas. If anyone has ideas for nominees, please let Kristen know. Also, the LDEI MFK Fisher prize is also open for entries; ideas for nominees or applications are welcome.

Committee Reports:**President's Report: Kristen Olson**

Kristen reported the CBL call was two weeks ago. She was surprised to learn that in some other chapters (with memberships ranging from 25 to 150) they've not had a lot of meetings during the pandemic. We are one of the more active chapters still getting together virtually or in person. Huge pat on the back to all staying involved.

Regarding our website, Kristen has been working on a MN LDEI calendar in a hidden spot so members can pop in and see what's going on, including when communications are being sent out so that we can avoid sending multiple communications within a few days to members (as well as friends and family).

Vice President's Report:

Paula's report was brief. She has a couple of things simmering but will fill us in later.

Grants: Joan Semmer

Joan was unable to attend the meeting.

Membership: Merrilyn Tauscher

Merrilyn sent a report. Late breaking news is that a membership invitation was extended to Katie Milliron who paid her dues immediately and is a new member as of February 2. Merrilyn will be her mentor, and it's exciting to have 48 members.

Fundraising: Erin Clancy and Julie Hinderks

Erin talked about a meeting she and Julie led last Tuesday with the newly formed fundraising committee for this year. Coming out of that, she's thinking about doing another box for Mother's Day or summer grilling with a similar process to the December box. Our other big potential event would be an in-person event featuring German wines. Amy Waller works with a German winery who has volunteered to donate wine, and Amy

would donate time to teach a class. Erin/Faribault Caves would donate cheese for a wine and cheese pairing event. We still have a deposit with the Solar Arts Building (from Dame It), so we'll look into having the meeting there. Another option would be perhaps meeting outside. Erin and Julie will have a call with Amy/Chow Girls to discuss potential timing for the class. The committee is still open to tossing other ideas around, so let Erin or Julie know if you have any. We will plan to do at least two but perhaps three more fundraisers. Janice emphasized that the deposit for Dame It was for Chow Girls and not the Solar Arts Building. If we don't use the deposit for the space, maybe we can use it to buy food from Chow Girls. Kristen added that while we'd need to proceed cautiously, a lot of in-person events are happening again, especially with a requirement to show a vaccination card. Erin added we may want to look at having the event in a city where there are good requirements for safety, such as the vaccination card requirement, limiting class size (and doing more than 1 class), masks... Lois added that in Merrillyn's (past treasurer) notes it says a down payment of \$320 was paid to Solar Arts for the '20 Dame It. Erin clarified that her notes said the check went to Chow Girls. More to come on fundraisers for the year.

Social Media/Communication: Lauren Voigt

- Updates:
 - Social growth: +4% Instagram, +1.5% Facebook since the last meeting
- Email list: +9% since the last meeting

LDEI public email list is now 557 contacts!

- Action items:
 - Facebook audience growth is very slow! Please follow the page if you haven't already, and reshare news/posts. Growing this page will be very helpful for promoting grants/scholarships, public events/fundraisers!
 - Committee formed to discuss LDEI branding & possible rebrand of Damelt TC Facebook page (Me, Kristen, Erin, Joan, Paula). Recommendations to follow at the next meeting.

Microgrants: Liz Nerud

Joan and Liz decided to re-energize their committee. They reached out to Lauren and with her assistance have implemented a 3-phase plan with a deadline of April 4th. Liz asked the Board members to think about contacts that could use a \$500 microgrant. She encouraged everyone to look at it as an opportunity for service to the group and

provide expertise in their search for candidates. She and Joan are also compiling a list of 10 important women to ask about contacts.

Programs: Kim Ode

The February program with Rose McGee has been canceled and will possibly be rescheduled in the fall. A meet and greet Zoom meeting is scheduled for February 17th with a “getting better at social Media” seminar to follow for those interested. On Thursday March 10th, a Table Talk called “Everything Rice” will be sponsored by us and our sister Chapter in St. Louis. Beth Dooley and Nutritionist, Amy Wong, will present. Local attendees may get a goodie bag depending on Beth’s recipe. The Program and Fundraising Committees will work together to finalize the details. April’s program is TBD and will be led by Amy as Kim will be out of town. They are waiting to decide about a May program until the Wine and Cheese pairing event date is finalized. A box or dinner for Mother’s Day has been discussed as an option. Brenda Langton has agreed to present at some point and there are some other ideas in the works for the summer.

Newsletter: Janice Cole and Patsy Noble

Their biggest challenge is getting the newsletter aligned for mobile devices. Kristen mentored Patsy in Canva, an on-line design program. Mailchimp doesn’t present correctly with mobile phones so Patsy and Janice use Canva to align photos and text. A new feature is an interview with Mary Scheu and members should reach out to her if they are interested in participating. They also encouraged members to contribute with articles about their work world or other industry related topics. It’s a great way to connect with members and plug-in new members. Recently Kristen set up a private page to link longer articles. Any input is appreciated and articles should be sent to them by the 20th of each month.

Scholarship: Arlene Coco

Susan Peters (Scholarship Board Chair) has requested to step down from her role for the remainder of the year and have Arlene Coco (Scholarship Committee role) take her place. They have received one application so far. Susan will help Arlene, and a discussion followed about the need for more Scholarship committee members. They will come up with a plan and update us. Kristen thanked Susan for her invaluable service to our Chapter.

Service: BJ Carpenter

BJ recommended that we direct some of our money to Minnesota Central Kitchen through Second Harvest Heartland. If it meets with our approval she will reach out to them. Erin thought it was a great idea. Lois thought we should combine a monetary donation with volunteer hours. Janice wondered if giving to additional organizations

would dilute our contributions. Acknowledging that we need to determine how we could best serve Minnesota Central Kitchen, BJ said that she would ask about our funding impact and find out the parameters of donating. Additionally, she will teach basic foundational classes at Urban Roots. Patsy reminded us that our support to Urban Roots has been earmarked for women centric opportunities and that it was “great to see support from a women’s organization”. Corporate funding has limitations.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Cindy Jurgensen and Nikki Erpelding

Neither Cindy or Nikki were able to attend.

Cindy sent the following note:

Patsy, Kristen, and I will be connecting on a Zoom call on Feb 9th to discuss the next steps for our chapter on DEI. We're learning a lot and are working behind the scenes to figure out the best way forward for our chapter but still have a lot of work to do. If anyone would be interested in joining in on the conversation, please let me know.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

Minutes submitted by Genie Zarling, MN LDEI Secretary