

MN Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier International
Board Meeting
June 8th 2022, 6:30pm-8:00pm
Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:34 by President Kristin Olson.

In attendance: Kristen Olson, Lois Tlusty, Merrilyn Tauscher, Julie Hinderks, Arlene Coco, Cindy Jurgensen, Lauren Voigt, Joan Donatelle, Erin Clancy, Kim Ode, Genie Zarling

Absent: Paula Zuhlsdorf, Amy Brown, Janice Cole, Joan Semmer, Nikki Erpelding, Patsy Noble

Secretary's Report: Genie Zarling

Genie had nothing to report aside from sending cards to BJ during her convalescence. She thanked board members for sending reports prior to the meeting. Minutes from the February meeting were approved online and are available on the chapter website.

Treasurer's Report: Lois Tlusty

Lois emailed the budget to board members prior to the meeting. She briefly spoke about her report which follows.

As of June 7, 2022, the checking account balance is \$37,467.62.

Income:

- \$349.98 New Member Dues
- \$3,030.00 Grants/Donations
- \$270.00 May Program

Expenses:

- \$107.20 Miscellaneous (Mailchimp/Stamps/Zoom)
- \$638.00 March, April, May Admin Support
- \$48.91.00 May Program
- \$75.00 Website Update
- \$127.50 International Dues
- \$60.00 Social Media
- \$99.27 Membership (New Member gifts/Potential Member First Meeting)

There is \$5,854.47 remaining in the 2021-22 budget. We haven't donated the budgeted dollars for Scholarship (\$5,500), Micro-grants (\$4,500) or Services (\$3,700) to date. The Administration Support and Social Media are below budget at this time. Website, due to LDEI website updates, and Miscellaneous are over to date.

New business: Lois Tlusty

Lois highlighted the changes to the board structure recommended by Lois, Merrillyn and Cindy as they reviewed the Bylaws.

Lois also proposed that we schedule a regular day and time for board meetings. This would allow members to plan accordingly and save work for the president by eliminating the need for a Google survey. As programs are often scheduled on Tuesday and Thursday, the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm was selected. If there is a holiday conflict a meeting could be rescheduled. Kristen will still send out an email invitation, agenda and pertinent reports.

Lois then spoke about the International Conference in October. The chapter is still committed to sending the president, vice president and awarding scholarships to two qualified members. The funds will come from the next year's budget but have been allocated for this purpose.

Committee Reports:

President: Kristen Olson

Kristen had a call with Joan Webber (President of Philadelphia Chapter) and Stacy Franklin (President of Austin Chapter) regarding partnering with them in a fundraising opportunity. Sisterly Love Collective is a program of the Les Dames d'Escoffier Philadelphia, with whom they have a shared mission to champion and support women in food and hospitality. The Philadelphia Chapter gets funding from corporations like US Foods to support food entrepreneurs at pop-up events and markets. The money raised at the events go directly to the "makers". The Austin Chapter was very hesitant to commit as their membership has grown to almost 100 members and they have not been able to meet in person because of COVID. Many board members seemed enthusiastic to learn more about this new fundraising opportunity.
<https://sisterlylovephilly.com/about-us>

Vice President: Paula Zuhlsdorf

Paula was unable to attend but sent discussion points for next steps for Services and Urban Roots involvement. The discussion was tabled for the next meeting due to time.

Grants: Joan Semmer

Joan was unable to attend. Kristen said that she, Joan, Cindy and Jessica Becker have been in conversation regarding the Grants Committee. Joan would really like to solidify how we approach grants. More information to come.

Membership: Merrillyn Tauscher

Audrey Nelson and Andi Bidwell will be co-mentors for new member Brooke Faudre, since they are all Francophiles. Once Susan Ritts completes her paperwork to become active, we will have 53 members. There are two key components to recruiting new members; they must have 5 years of professional experience and you think that they would be an engaged and contributing member. Our Minnesota membership process is very lenient; International has much stricter requirements. Merrilyn shared a Membership Information Sheet to give to prospective members.

Fundraising: Julie Hinderks and Erin Clancy

The Grilling Kit will launch on Sunday June 12th. Tanya will send out an email. The boxes will be packed and distributed on Thursday July 21st at the Food Building. The Food Building wants pick-up inside to generate traffic. Lunds and Byerlys has donated bags that we will use instead of boxes. 50% of the proceeds will go to scholarships/grants. There will be 4 or 8 brat kits. We are unable to offer liquor now that the provision enacted during COVID has been suspended. Instead there will be ginger beer and a recipe to make your own cocktail. Kim Ode will announce the upcoming fundraiser at the event on Thursday.

In September there will be a German wine and cheese tasting. Erin and Julie are meeting with Amy Waller on June 20th and need to secure a location before confirming a date. They plan to use women wine producers and cheesemakers with the possibility of getting the cheeses donated.

Social Media: Lauren Voigt

Lauren had a brief report. Our Instagram has shown little growth and our Facebook account has basically stalled out. Overall we have much better exposure but it will still be challenging to meet our fundraising goals. She has everything she needs for the June fundraising launch.

Microgrants: Joan Donatelle

Joan was very excited about this year's Microgrants program. We had 14 applications with a nice cross section of applicants and were able to provide 10 awards. Two applicants have already submitted receipts for reimbursement. Belen Rodriguez, Quebracho Empanadas, is waiting to purchase her semi-automatic empanada maker until she receives her check. A small group may go to Buffalo Rock Winery to present Nicole Dietman her check for patio furniture. Perhaps members would be interested in going to the Mpls. Farmers Market to present a check to Vikings and Goddesses Pie Company. There is a mid-September deadline for distributing checks. The spreadsheet will be SOP for next year to keep track of applicants, receipts, photos and where they heard about MN LDEI. Many recipients are potential members.

Programs: Kim Ode

Kim said that we have a nice crowd for tomorrow night. She will introduce new members and promote the fundraiser in June. Brenda Langton will join Cindy Jurgesen and Andi Bidwell on

the Program Committee. Our July Meeting might be a combined packing/distribution event with a social outing to follow. Amy Brown will figure out the August Meeting, possibly a visit to the Hmong Market. The September meeting will be later than usual this year to allow for the German Wine and Cheese tasting.

Newsletter: Janice Cole

Janice was unable to attend but sent a report:

The newsletter is coming along nicely. New member Mary Scheu agreed to take over the Inspired column and started reaching out to members for this latest June issue. Member Julie Hinderks will be taking a break from her Trends column while she settles into her new job. I'm hoping she'll be ready to come back once her new job is underway. We will be taking a break from the newsletter for the July issue as Patsy will be out of town and out of internet reach and I'll just have moved and won't be organized enough to get an issue out. But the newsletter will be back for August!

We appreciate any information committees and members want to pass along. We like getting information early but are very flexible and can usually squeeze things in even if they come in close to the deadline.

Scholarship: Arlene Coco

Arlene said they only had one applicant this year, a high school student from Wayzata. The deadline was June 1st. She asked for input regarding a decision to rollover that application to next year or giving a smaller amount. Discussion followed. Arlene and her committee will make the final decision and make a recommendation.

Service:

BJ has stepped down as Service Chair because of health complications but plans to talk to Urban Roots at some point.

DEI: Cindy Jurgensen

Cindy had nothing to report this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm.

Minutes submitted by Genie Zarling, MN LDEI Secretary.