

MN Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier International
Board Meeting
August 10th 2022, 6:30pm-8:00pm
Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:36pm by President Kristen Olson.

In attendance: Kristen Olson, Lois Tlusty, Paula Zuhlsdorf, Joan Semmer, Marilyn Tauscher, Erin Clancy, Julie Hinderks, Lauren Voigt, Joan Donatelle, Jance Cole, Genie Zarling

Absent: Arlene Coco, Amy Brown, Kim Ode, Cindy Jurgensen, Nikki Erpelding

Secretary's Report: Genie Zarling

Genie had nothing to report. The Minutes from the June Meeting were approved online and are available on our website.

Treasurer's Report: Lois Tlusty

As of August 9, 2022, the checking account balance is \$40,015.77.

The following income and expenses are for June and July, 2022.

Income:

- \$3,750.00 Member Dues (2022-2023)
- \$2,021.62 Grilling Kit Fundraiser
- \$2,030.02 June/July Programs

Expenses:

- \$33.50 Miscellaneous (Mailchimp)
- \$434.50 June/July Admin Support
- \$2,498.29 June Program
- \$1,500 Micro-grants
- \$42.50 International Dues
- \$43.49 Membership (New Member gifts)

There is \$8,093.40 remaining in the 2021-22 budget. We will be donating to Scholarships (\$1,000), Micro-grants (\$3,000) and Services (to be determined) this fiscal year. Administration Support and Social Media continues to be below budget.

Lois Tlusty
MN LDEI Treasurer

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business: President Kristen Olson

All Board members should have an email in their in-box regarding the proposed changes to the bylaws. Please send your vote to Tanya by August 19th.

Committee Reports:

President's Report: Kristen Olson

Kristen had a meeting with other Chapter presidents about membership and retention. Some chapters do not have a mentor/mentee program. Some chapters only accept new members once a year whereas some chapters have an initiation process similar to the "rush" platform used by sororities. Lois mentioned that our chapter used to welcome members once a year and that it was nice to recognize them as a group.

Kristen also mentioned the [Conference Patron Program](#) and that we have budgeted \$500 to send to the International Conference host. There are different spheres of sponsorship and we are at the lowest patron level. The Board agreed that this was a good sign of support. Lois will make the donation which does provide a few perks listed below.

Feature benefits:

- Recognition at the Conference, including your name in the Conference program and the on-screen scroll during the opening keynote address and Gala dinner
- One (1) raffle ticket (transferable)
- Chapter receives one (1) entry for every two (2) Patrons from their chapter for a 2023 Conference registration drawing

Vice President's Report: Paula Zuhlsdorf

Paula is excited about next year's Board and will be getting it out to members for a vote soon.

She spoke about Service and the decision to follow through with our \$3500 donation to Urban Roots. Haley has promised a letter from the chef about how they plan to spend the money. Lois asked to be forwarded that information so that she can mail a check for \$3500. Paula has been invited to a pop-up dinner, she has a ticket for a guest if anyone is interested. Paula and Katie Milliron evaluated other small non-profits to see if they would be a good fit for our philanthropy. They discovered that many had large donation budgets similar to Urban Roots. Katie will be on the Newsletter Committee next year.

Grants: Joan Semmer

On May 11th there was a preliminary meeting of the Grant Committee. Kristen Olson, Cindy Jurgensen, Jessica Becker and Joan Semmer were in attendance. We would like to formalize the committee and open it up to anyone in our chapter who is interested. Also, the people at that meeting should decide if they want to be on the Grant Committee during the coming year.

Joan recapped some ideas from the committee meeting and discussed the importance of clarifying our focus on philanthropy and creating a clear message that we can share with the public and when applying for grants. She requested that we poll the chapter to determine if members would like to expand our philanthropy or continue as is. Kristen thought it might be appropriate to include the survey in the Annual Meeting.

Membership: Merrilyn Tauscher

Merrilyn announced that we now have 53 members. Alicia Hinz, invited by Cindy Jurgensen, is our newest member. We will be meeting at one of her restaurants, The Buttered Tin in January. Her membership application included her resume and Merrilyn wondered if we should make this a requirement as it shows professionalism and a serious intent to join our organization. New members are added immediately to the Membership Directory and all email lists as soon as they pay dues, complete the New LDEI Member Form and send a photo. Also, their names are sent to Committee Chairs that they expressed interest in on their application.

Fundraising: Erin Clancy and Julie Hinderks

The fall fundraiser was just posted to members. The attendance is limited to 50 people for the Wine and Cheese Pairing and will feature mostly women except for a couple of men winemakers. Erin and Amy Waller will meet soon to discuss details for the fun and

entertaining event at Studio Q. The Grilling Kit didn't do as well as they had hoped but we received a lot of donations.

Social Media: Lauren Voigt

Lauren has tried to keep her spending in check but our expenditures have been well worth it as we ended up with a lot of new followers. She provided the following growth metrics:

Facebook // 17.1% growth since term start
(398 Sept 2021 / 349 Aug 2022)

Instagram // 25.2% growth since term start
(588 Sept 2021 / 736 Aug 2022)

Email // 68.8% growth since term start
(389 Sept 2021 / 645 Aug 2022)

Social media is cued up for the public release of the September Wine and Cheese Pairing fundraiser. She asked Paula for photos from the upcoming Urban Roots Dinner.

Microgrants: Joan Donatelle

Joan said that this has been an exciting year for Microgrants. We still have quite a few recipients who haven't sent us receipts. We have 2 requests to receive their funds next year so will roll over their funds from this year's budget. Joan recommended that we don't make them reapply. She sent out a reminder email to recipients on July 28th. There is a shared folder on our [Google Drive](#) if anyone is interested in more information.

Programs: Amy Brown and Kim Ode

Neither Amy or Kim were able to attend and no report was submitted. Kristen reminded us about the program at Kim Ode's home on August 30th and the Annual Meeting on September 28th at St. Paul Brewing.

Newsletter: Janice Cole

Janice did not have much to report. She wondered about the new Board members and Paula said that some outstanding roles are still undecided. New members, Brooke and

Alicia, will be featured in the September newsletter. Janice will reach out to Katie Milliron.

Scholarship: Arlene Coco

Arlene was not able to attend but submitted the following report.

2022 Scholarship Committee Report

Dear fellow Dames,

This year we received 1 application for our scholarship from a young woman representing an institution of higher education: University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Normally our scholarship winners are invited to one of our meetings so we can all meet them. This year, we will extend the invitation to Mary to attend a program where we can meet her if she is in town.

Your Scholarship Committee,

Arlene Coco, Allison Sheardy, Dorothy Stainbrook, Jessica Becker and Lizbeth Kliewer

Meet our 2022 LDEI MN Scholar:

Mary Zimmer, \$1,000 Scholarship

Age 18, from Medina, attended Wayzata High School. High School GPA 3.9

Mary wrote: I wish to express my gratitude as a recipient of the LDEI Scholarship for Culinary Education. Thank you so much for the scholarship I am honored.

Lois will mail a \$1000 scholarship check to the University of Wisconsin, Madison for Mary Zimmer.

Service: Paula Zuhlsorf

Paula had nothing further to add from her Vice President's report.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Cindy Jurgensen

Cindy was not able to attend but said that she has an article in the August Newsletter and one already submitted for the September issue about DEI. Cindy, Kristen, Lois and Paula attended a webinar hosted by international about DEI (mentioned in Cindy's

August newsletter) that was not what they anticipated. International will continue to offer general DEI education but they recommended that each chapter take their own steps to address their local situation. We're hoping for more guidance from International. Our Chapter has decided to view it as an important educational opportunity.

Announcements:

Lois encouraged us to pay our dues if we haven't already done so. 22 members have not paid, the original due date of August 15th has been extended to September 15th.

Kristen thanked everyone for their participation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.