

MN Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier International
Board Meeting held via Zoom
December 14, 2022

LDEI Mission: To inspire, advance and support women in food, beverage, and hospitality to achieve excellence in leadership and philanthropy.

Meeting called to order at 6:36 p.m. by President Paula Zuhlsdorf

In attendance:

Merrilyn Tauscher
Cindy Jurgensen
Kim Ode
Paula Zuhlsdorf
Katie Milliron
Andi Bidwell
Lauren Voigt
Kristen Olson

Absent:

Laura Algieri
Audrey Nelson
Lois Tlusty

Lizbeth Kliewer
Allison Sheardy

Joan Semmer
Janice Cole

Secretary's Report: Kristen Olson

- October Minutes were approved online and are available on the website

Treasurer's Report: Allison Sheardy

- Review of annual budget – minor adjustments were made and clarification will be sought on several issues before finalization
 - Programs is tracking well with expenses vs income

Committee Reports

- President – Paula Zuhlsdorf
 - Make sure everyone is aware that we have files in google docs that should align with your role on the board. Does everyone have access?
 - Look through your hard files - do you have anything that you can file away or make electronic instead? Aiming to get everything included in Google Docs
 - France 44 - (Karina Roe and Amy Waller) is holding several events as a soft opening for their new event space. They offered a percentage of profits from one event to go to our group; we accepted. Check to arrive shortly.
- Vice-President – Kim Ode

- Assisting with fundraising and exploring sponsorships for our events to help cover costs.
- Nothing else to report
- Program: Cindy Jurgensen & Andi Bidwell
 - Since the last board meeting, the Program Committee has hosted three successful programs as follows:
 - October 26 – Dinner at the Kramarczuk’s Ukrainian restaurant where Orest Kramarczuk (founder of the restaurant and deli that opened in 1954) spoke to our group. As a result of this meeting, our chapter raised and made a \$1,000.00 donation to the International Orthodox Christian Charities/Ukraine Response (IOCC).
 - November 2 – Program at the A-Mill Lofts with Celina Kane (Dame Brenda Langton’s daughter) and Rose McGee of the Sweet Potato Comfort Pie organization. Our dinner was catered by the Centro Taqueria & Mexican Cuisine restaurant in NE Minneapolis. For dessert, we enjoyed sweet potato pies made by several of our members.
 - December 8 – Twenty-five of our members met at the home of member Joan Semmer to hear Rachel Anderson of the Vikings and Goddesses pie company speak on how she started her company in 2019. Rachel brought two flavors of her all-butter crust pies (made with local Hope Creamery butter and Baker’s Field flour.)
 - Coming Up:
 - January 10 – Breakfast at member Alicia Hinze’s Buttered Tin Bakery in NE Minneapolis.
 - February 28 – A wine tasting by Annette Peters of Bourget Wine Company at the party room of member Jeanie Kozar. A dinner will be prepared by member and chef Jo Seddon.
 - March 14 – Zoe Francois will represent our chapter at a Zoom program that will be open to the entire LDEI organization for the virtual event Table Talks with Les Dames.
 - New member Emily Hughes has joined our committee.
- Membership – Lauren Voigt
 - 2 New members: Alex Connett, Emily Hughes
 - 2 Returning members: Nancy Monroe, Dorothy Stainbrook
 - There is a new application that was created; it’s a Word document and that gets filled in and returned to LDEI.
 - Applying dames list no more than 4 committees that they are interested in and that they rank them based on interest
 - Propose that we welcome new members on a quarterly basis instead of always rolling onboarding process
 - Might be easier to assign the new members to committees
 - Workflow-wise, it’s easier to welcome new members in a batch (also camaraderie)
 - Proposed timelines:
 - Sept 1 - Applications Due / 14th - Accepted members notified & invoices sent / 30 - Dues due
 - Dec 1 - Applications Due / 14th - Accepted members notified & invoices sent / 30 - Dues due

- Mar 1 - Applications Due / 14th - Accepted members notified & invoices sent / 30 - Dues due
 - June 1 - Applications Due / 14th - Accepted members notified & invoices sent / 30 - Dues due
- Motion to pass the quarterly application process was proposed and approved by all. Any potential members applying now, will be processed and welcomed in March 2023
 - Reviewed what is included in the new member gift bag
- Newsletter – Katie Milliron
 - No Report
 - Newsletter content deadline is the 20th of the month
- Fundraising - Laura Algieri
 - Laura is connecting with Audrey and the Service Committee
 - Working towards a May fundraiser
- Communications/Social Media – Kristen Olson
 - No report
- Service – Audrey Nelson
 - Connecting with Urban Roots
- Grants – Joan Semmer
 - No report
- Scholarship – Janice Cole
 - No report
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Merrilyn Tauscher
 - Updated us with the International seminar from LDEI - they are going to be offering a bimonthly meeting to discuss DEI topics
- Microgrants – Lois Tlusty
 - Would like to update the name of the microgrant program (currently Dame It Dollars) to MN LDEI Microgrants
 - Would like to see microgrants separated from scholarships on our website - Will include new images from our recent microgrant recipients

Old Business:

- Proposed Bylaws changes passed

New Business:

- A special committee is taking on reviewing job descriptions and other documents for consistency and clarity and will upload the files to the google drive for reference.

Adjourn: approximately 7:34

Motion made and seconded. Unanimous decision.