

MN Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier International
Board Meeting held via Zoom
February 8, 2023

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 6:31 p.m. by President Paula Zuhlsdorf

In attendance:

Laura Algieri
Andi Bidwell
Janice Cole
Lizbeth Kliewer
Katie Milliron
Audrey Nelson
Kristen Olson
Joan Semmer
Lois Tlusty
Lauren Voigt
Paula Zuhlsdorf

Absent:

Cindy Jurgensen
Kim Ode
Allison Sheardy

Secretary's Report: Lizbeth Kliewer

- December minutes were approved and are available on the website
- Thanks to Kristen Olson for stepping in to function as secretary for the last meeting

Treasurer's Report: Allison Sheardy

- Report submitted & approved
- Question and discussion about whether the budget should be posted on the website. Determined that it has not been done in the past, so that policy will continue

President's Report: Paula Zuhlsdorf

- Dues increase discussion – 10 years since last change. Currently local dues are \$90 and International \$85. Retirees pay half of this amount for local dues.

Motion to increase by Audrey, 2nd by Kristen – Discussion followed, including that prices have gone up on everything we buy, and we anticipate LDEI may raise dues this fall as well; the timing for raising local dues is in line with those factors.

Motion to raise dues to \$100 and raise retirees to \$75 passed, to take effect for next year's dues if approved by members. Paula will email the membership for a vote.

Vice-President: Kim Ode

No report

Committee Reports

- Program: Andi Bidwell
Report submitted –
Summary of past programs & upcoming programs provided
Have started supplying \$100 honorarium to each speaker
Also new is including a small door prize at each program to encourage continued interest in venue and/or speaker
- Membership – Lauren Voigt
Currently 56 members
New application process & timeline for reviewing and accepting applications on a quarterly basis in place
Provided clarification between “guests” and “potential members”
- Newsletter – Katie Milliron
Looking for one or two people to help on a committee to solicit content, especially questionnaires and photos from new members
- Service – Audrey Nelson
Report on concert last weekend benefitting Urban Roots
Audrey to connect with Hayley at UR in a couple weeks
- Fundraising – Laura Algieri & Kim Ode
Report submitted
New fundraising ideas- Screening of Jesse Roesler Documentary, Chicken & Champagne Baskets, Online Silent Auction
Pursuing culinary-themed online silent auction for 2 week window in May; goal is 40-60 items provided or curated by members; PR by local food media will be key; also desire to have auction be LDEI-facing so items that could be shipped or viewed on Zoom to be included; next step will be pulsing members to confirm support before soliciting corporate funds to help finance
- Communications/Social Media – Kristen Olson
New microgrant information posted
There has been an increase in numbers of Facebook and Instagram followers
- Grants – Joan Semmer
No report
- Scholarship – Janice Cole
In gathering information regarding college scholarships, it was determined our application may be too complicated and lengthy for the size of the scholarship, so simplifying it will be pursued. Discussion ensued about current option for local Dames to nominate students out of state and it was determined to remove this option. Deadline for submissions to be optimized.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Merrilyn Tauscher
No report

- Microgrants – Lois Tlusty

Applications are open from 2/7/23 – 3/14/23; deadline about when to submit receipts by will be firm; grant info to be promoted on social media and in the newsletter. Instead of bringing applicants to the board for a vote on who should receive grants, committee head will weigh applicants and determine who should receive funds; this will keep process moving (vs having to wait for the board to vote in April) and is in line with how the Scholarship process works.

Grant applicant from last year has reapplied for a grant this year. She missed the deadline for submitting her receipts last year, though she was not provided the deadline so she couldn't have known she was too late; Lois recommended we provide her with a grant from the money leftover from last year's Micro-grant Committee that was rolled into this year's checking account. The Executive Board had debated this last fall and recommended to not give her a grant due to her late response to an email stating "the deadline for submitted receipts is approaching", but the board debated and felt we were also remiss in not giving her a date her materials were due. So it was determined she will receive a \$500 grant from our checking account and the money in this year's MG budget will be for this year's applicants.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Adjourn: 8:16 by unanimous decision