
New England Lace Group

Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2011

Executive Board Attendees: Patty Foley, President; Winann Steinmetz, Treasurer & Membership; Susan L. Benzer, Clerk

Executive Board Absent: Carolyn Wetzel, Vice President; Elisabeth Wagner, Librarian; Mary Linden, Member at Large; Gail MacLean, Newsletter Editor

Member Attendees: Linda Dumas, Rosalie Bares, Julie Boch, Linda Lane, Bryce Wolf, Karen Davis

Guest Attendees: Lisa L. Tremblay

Meeting called to order 11:16 a.m.; Patty Foley presided.

Introductions – We shared some stories as to who we are and why we like lace. Lisa Tremblay is new and was excited to attend meeting.

Minutes from June 18, 2011 meeting were approved. Motion to approve was made by Winann Steinmetz, seconded by Bryce Wolf and approved unanimously.

President Report:

Non-profit status – A very complex procedure. Patty Foley is investigating the process. First we have to file for incorporation in CT, hold several ‘meetings’, and update the bylaws to be more flexible, ex: Items that should be policies rather than bylaws before filing for tax exemption with the IRS.

Appointed Positions of the Executive Board – The following individuals will continue in their positions: Susan L. Benzer, as Clerk, and Elisabeth Wagner as Librarian and Gail MacLean as Newsletter Editor.

Appointment of Committee Chairs - the following individuals will serve in these positions: Jill Hawkins, Webmistress; Local Groups – Winann Steinmetz for, CT; Bryce Wolf for Eastern MA; Lies will continue upon her health improving; Jeri Ames in Maine; Bylaw Committee will be Patty Foley, Jill Hawkins and Sharon Sacco; Retreat – Jill Hawkins; Scholarships & Grants Bryce Wolf & Winann Steinmetz.

Thank you to local groups Bryce Wolf will be the contact for the Sunday Lace Group - their meetings could be posted in the Calendar of Events. Jeri Ames is now heading a Maine group, more information will be coming.

Next meeting is not at Sturbridge, but in Berlin, CT at the Berlin-Peck Memorial Library. Demo from 10-12, then move up the street for lunch and business meeting. See programs for a list of upcoming events

Pictures of current things - send to Patty or to Jill to post pictures in the lace gallery.

Treasurer's Report:

Year end August 31, 2011 financial report was presented by Winann. Bryce moved to accept annual expense report as presented. Rosalie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Proposed Budget for 2011-2012 - We had much discussion. We went over spreadsheets and reserve calculations. Do we raise dues, if so, how much? Do we set up different levels of membership? Vote postponed till next meeting.

Bank signatories – The current signers on the NELG bank account are Winann Steinmetz, Patty Foley, and Carolyn Wetzel.

Membership Report:

Update on members. Winann reported on the status of many of our members: Evelyn Gant in Vermont said she didn't have flooding from hurricane Irene; Marni is almost back to where she was before surgery. She plans to do runs to support cancer research; Lies - had surgery. Still not doing well; Barbara Doheny is just out of rehab. She has breathing issues, but now at home is doing better; Boo (Barbara's daughter) is also home recovering from a double mastectomy and some complications. Jill is improving after a lumpectomy. She is waiting for results. Slight possibility she won't have to do the full treatment. Sister Madeline wishes everyone good luck at the Big E and will not be able to attend as she is assisting her group who's traveling in South Africa.

Renewal Policy: Membership dues are acceptable on the website and are now payable through PayPal. Members may continue to mail in checks to our Treasurer.

Programs – Read by Patty for Carolyn Wetzel

Current programs are set as follows:

November	Tag sale; start *lace stars for IOLI convention; start **Threads Make the Lace project - Sturbridge, MA
December	Holiday Party & Gift Swap – Sturbridge, MA
January	UFO day – Sturbridge, MA
February	TBA
March	Lies Stolk will present a program on attaching lace to linen – Sturbridge, MA
April	TBA
May	Retreat – Wareham, MA
June	Annual Meeting and Elections – Lace In – Sturbridge, MA

Stars for IOLI - 2.5 inch diameter - 5 point - which are hard to find. 6 points easy, 5 not so much.

IOLI Update - Carolyn Wetzel is now the Northeast Regional IOLI director.

Survey – Carolyn developed a survey on programming. The survey will be closed at the end of September.

CraftBoston – is a juried show - March 23-25, 2012. We could attend as an educational group and that would enable us to demonstrate and not purchase a booth.

Member At Large – Read by Patty for Mary Linden

Volunteer Hours - Mary reported that we have 146 volunteer hours since January. Hours can now be posted via the Member's only section of the NELG website. If you would like to send them in via email, send to NELGMemberAtLarge@gmail.com.

Lace for Wadsworth Atheneum wreath

Mary Linden must have the lace for the fans for the wreath - drop dead date to her is Nov. 5, 2011.

CreativeArts – Big E – We need more volunteers to demonstrate making lace at the Fair. Sign up on website ASAP if you want your parking pass and admission ticket.

FiberFestival - Will be held on the 1st weekend in November at the Big E fairgrounds. NELG will have a booth. More information as it becomes available will be sent out.

Local Groups – Winann and Bryce spoke briefly about their respective groups. We are looking to expand to western Massachusetts and other areas

Library Report - Elisabeth Wagner was not here so no report and no action on the new library policy.

Website Update – Read by Patty for Jill Hawkins - There continues to be improvements to the web site. The privacy policy was reviewed by everyone. Winann moved that the policy be adopted, Bryce seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The Privacy Policy is posted on the website under the Governance section.

Anniversary Committee

Patty reported 30th anniversary of NELG will be in 2012. She had done research on various venues that have limited availability in September and October. Members at the meeting indicated that yes we want the event. It was decided that it would be good to arrange it for the same time as October meeting. We could enjoy a luncheon at Tavern at the Village, room could have approximately 45 people. The group decided on the luncheon buffet as their choice

Sturbridge was interested in having us demonstrate but it was not clear about whether the entrance ticket fees would be waived for the group.

Winann moved to appropriate \$1,500 for expenses related to the 30th Anniversary party. The motion was seconded by Linda Dumas. It passed unanimously.

Bylaw Committee

Patty Foley reported on cleaning up and modifying the by-laws. Once her draft is completed it will be forwarded to Jill and Sharon. This is necessary for non-profit status and incorporation.

Retreat Committee – Patty read the report from Jill Hawkins

Report on 2012 & 2013 & 2014, Welcome to the new members of our Retreat Committee: Judy Anderson & Rosalie Bares. "Old hands" Sharon Sacco and Bryce Wolf have agreed to stay on to help mentor new members during the transition. Plans are well underway for our retreat in 2012. Sally Schoenberg and Holly van Sciver will be teaching, and Holly will be vending. Sally's class will cover Flanders and Binche, and Holly will cover Beds, Bucks, Honiton and Beyond!

Jill confirms that for 2013 we have Pompey Parry from England who will teach Downton and Polychrome. For 2014, we will have Ulrike Voelcker who has not committed to a subject yet (but it could be something new!). Vendors and a second teacher for each year are still to be determined, and ideas are solicited from the membership. Retreat will be the weekend prior to Memorial Day for 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Newsletter – Patty read the report from Gail MacLean

Deadlines –October 1st is the deadline for your updated information – expecting to publish on October 15th. Many thanks to the many contributors to our newsletter in the past year! We published 4 issues in the past year: October, 2010, February, April and July, 2011; the February issue included the 2011 Member Directory and Library Inventory. Newsletter size ranged from 10 to 16 pages.

Most members access their newsletters from the Members' Pages of our website after receiving an email notification; between 25 and 30 members receive their issue via the US Postal Service. Mailing expenses increased from 61 to 64 cents per issue.

We email a copy of our newsletter to 8 other lace groups: Finger Lakes Lace Guild, Five Rivers Bobbin Lacemakers, Metropolitan Chapter of IOLI, Rocky Mountain Lace Guild, Lace Guild of Oklahoma, Liberty Lacers, Lost Art Lacers of New Jersey, and Lacemakers of Puget Sound. Six of them have newsletters that they share with us. We occasionally reprint each others' articles with appropriate permissions.

Scholarship & Grants Committee - report by Winann and Bryce

Last year we awarded \$410 of scholarships. Reminder – Application for Scholarship deadline is January 31, 2012. They reminded members that they need to look forward on the calendar as to retreat, membership, etc.

Nominating Committee

Patty reported that she has not received any volunteers for the committee. Next year's open positions are Vice President and Treasurer/Membership.

Meeting adjourned 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Susan L. Benzer