

New England Lace Group Meeting, March 15, 2104

Executive Board Attendance: Sharon Sacco, President, Bryce Wolf, Vice President, Susan Landry, Librarian.

Executive Board Absent: Patty Foley, Treasurer and Membership, Gail MacLean, Newsletter Editor, Clerk and Member-At-Large unfilled positions.

Member and Guest Attendees: Rita Bartholomew, Marjorie Dashef, Barbara Kirk, Linda Lane, Jim Martin, Linda Sheff, Winann Steinmetz.

The Meeting was called to order at 11:12 AM

Winann Steinmetz - Retreat Update:

- Today is the last day to get the discount. The last day to register is May 5.
- Thirty-three people are attending including instructors, of which 25 are full time participants.
- You may not be getting the same room as before. Two rooms were taken over by the retreat house.
- If you are bringing a electrical equipment that runs at night, you should put that in your form.
- You also might consider bringing an extension cord. Need them also downstairs in the breezeway.
- In 2015 Holly will be both teacher and vendor. Allie Marguccio will teach Idrija lace and will bring her husband who makes bobbins for Idrija Lace. There is an article in our Newsletter (Nov. 2013).

President – Sharon Sacco

*Nominating Committee:* Carolyn Wetzal and Marjorie Dashef

*Librarian:* Transition will happen; some books are here today, hopefully next month back in business.

*Review of previous minutes* (January since Feb. was snowed out): Winann Steinmetz motioned to accept the minutes. Bryce Wolf seconded the motion. The minutes of January were accepted unanimously.

*Becoming a non-profit:*

The idea of becoming a non-profit has been discussed for some time now, and she passed out a sheet with information on what steps the process requires. Jill and Sharon are working on this and want to talk to some other groups about becoming a non-profit.

Each state is different, one group that they talked with suggested being a feed off of IOLI, but that doesn't seem like it would work since they are all volunteer. Shirley Egan of Finger Lakes Lace Guild wrote back to us recently regarding non-profits and her email is summarized on the handout sheet.

We have to pick one state, probably Massachusetts or Connecticut. Then we need to be recognized by the IRS.

We would need to have the right to better control membership in addition to the ability to accept donations that for a 501(c)(3) would be tax-deductible. There are grants available specifically for non-profits.

There is a great deal of work to do, to make our organization a non-profit, legal documents to fill out, especially if we become a 'charitable' non-profit. There are costs associated with this as well, filing fee, maintenance costs, insurance costs. The state part is relatively easy, to get Federal recognition is much harder.

If we choose to do this, the first step is to rewrite the bylaws to be acceptable to the process. This should take about 6 months since we need to also understand the processes. We should roughly figure 3 months for state incorporation. The goal is to get to this by the end of the year if all goes well.

Shirley Egan has noted from the Finger Lakes experience that by documenting what we do such as volunteer hours will be important in trying to get federal charitable status.

Bryce Wolf moved to start the process. Winann seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

*Demonstrations:*

Linda Sheff and Sharon Sacco went to the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, and they are very interested in doing something. NELG will be demonstrating lace making on Saturday, March 22, from 11:00 – 3:00 PM and also again on Sunday, April 13: 11.00- 3:00 PM. Jill will set up something on the website and there will be a sign up list. They have tables, lights, and chairs. Please register so they can set up.

Gore Place is coming up in April. Check the website and register if interested.

*Other business:*

Sharon Horen is still trying to sell her mother's lace equipment. If anyone is interested, contact Sharon Sacco for the contact information.

Who is in charge of the Big E? Conn. Lace has already got money. Our write up can be the same. One gift/prize: Judge's choice, same wording. Bryce mentioned she needed to redeem her gift certificate. Big E, Rosalie and Winann will collect things and could take them down.

Bryce Wolf and Clare Settle are collecting for the silent auction.

Upcoming programs: Doris Schick will have a lace identification program April. Bring your lace identification books to meeting for April's ID day.

Bryce Wolf moved to adjourn. Marjorie Dashef seconded the motion

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectively submitted by Susan Landry with edits by Sharon Sacco