

## New England Lace Group Meeting Minutes

17 June 2017

Joshua Hyde Public Library, Sturbridge MA

Officers Present: Sharon Sacco, President; Kate Moore, Member-at-large; Jim Martin, Vice-President; Bryce Wolf, Librarian

Others Present: Denise Kinsley, Linda Lane, Carmen Bartholomew, Rita Bartholomew, Barbara Kirk, Mary Linden, Janet Blanchard, Rosalie Bares, Winann Steinmetz, Carolyn Wetzel

Minutes taken by Carolyn Wetzel in lieu of Clerk Marjorie Dashef, who was not present.

Meeting started: 11:10 am

1. Sharon Sacco led the attendees in introducing themselves to one another.
2. Sharon Sacco led election of new officers. The open positions were President and Member-at-large, and the nominating committee had identified Rita Bartholomew for President and incumbent Kate Moore for another term as Member-at-large. Both were unanimously elected by all present including 6 submitted paper ballots.

Sharon will transfer the President's materials to Rita over the summer, before Rita assumes the office starting September 1<sup>st</sup>. This includes the President pin and Charter from IOLI (which must be returned to IOLI if NELG dissolves). There was some discussion about the whereabouts of the second President pin, with no conclusion. If you know where it is, please let Rita know.

3. Minutes from the May 2017 meeting were approved with a small amendment to the Big E information.
4. Winann Steinmetz reported on the May Retreat. The retreat committee did not know what the prices would be before determining the registration fees, and they went up compared to last year; but NELG still came out ahead by \$140. Bobbin prices were affected by the exchange rate. There was perfect weather and the retreat went well. It was a relatively small group and neither class was full (8 and 9 students, compared to cap of 10 per class). If anyone has pictures to post on Facebook or the website, please send them to Jill Hawkins. The silent auction made over \$900 for the library and scholarships.

Winann and Sharon related information about Sacred Heart retreat center's preparation for sale. Sr. Claire is trying to keep the retreat facilities running until it is sold. There are major problems such as with the water supply to the youth center. At the NELG Board meeting during the retreat, it was decided to donate \$100 from NELG to help Sr. Claire. It was noted that it would not be useful to donate any more small amounts, as large donations are what they need to fix the major problems. The NELG Board idea to donate actually started before the retreat and was not in direct response to the current situation. Rosalie suggested giving money to the individuals that make the retreat center so wonderful, such as Mike, who are very helpful. A more lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of NELG donating money to Sacred Heart ensued, including concerns about where the money would end up (the people who NELG intended to receive it, or the general organization) and whether donating NELG money to a private, sectarian organization was in the mission of the

NELG, balanced against our interest in helping them out and recognizing our appreciation of their service. The decision was to not make any further NELG donations at this time, but individuals are encouraged to make their own donations as they wish.

Sr. Claire suggested checking out a different retreat center in Western MA – the Genesis center, in Westfield, MA. It has a 45 person limit. Winann requested that members be on the lookout for a new retreat location and send suggestions to her. Some ideas that came up were the Deerfield Academy and Connecticut College.

Kate suggested that the retreat committee investigate the option of having a longer retreat, and maybe a third teacher.

5. New Business

Winann proposed, for discussion at the September meeting, to consider a NELG 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary “gift” to each current member be a free 1-year membership. And still have cake at the party!

Sharon announced that Karen Thompson’s new book on Ipswich lace is out and is very good. Jeri Ames has a review of it on the NELG website. It can be purchased from Holly van Sciver, Maria Provencher, and from Amazon.com among other places. The NELG Library will buy a copy of it.

6. Jim Martin reported on the upcoming year’s programs.

**September** – “What I did over summer vacation” sharing of members about lace workshops, conferences, trips, etc.

Also in September: Sept 23-24<sup>th</sup>, demonstration at Old Sturbridge Village

**October** – Road trip TBA

**November** – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party. Please bring memorabilia to share.

**December** – Holiday party, gift exchange.

Jim is looking for program ideas for Spring 2018.

7. Jim presented a gift to Sharon Sacco in appreciation for her years of service as NELG president. We all applauded.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm. It was followed by a program on netted lace by Rita Bartholomew.