

New England Lace Group Meeting

16 September 2017

Executive Board Attendance: Rita Bartholomew, President; Jim Martin, Vice President

Members: Carmen Bartholomew, Marjorie Dashef, Judy Jeon-Chapman, Denise Kinsley, Sharon Sacco, Winann Steinmetz, and Carolyn Wetzel

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM.

Introductions were made.

Minutes: The minutes from the June meeting were reviewed. A change was requested to replace the word “sectarian” with “religious”. Marjorie Dashef moved that the minutes with the amendment be approved. Jim Martin seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Board Change: Marjorie Dashef announced that she has resigned as NELG clerk. The position is now open.

Big E: Sharon Sacco had some extra Big E tickets from people who would not use them. They were distributed to Judy Jeon-Chapman and Jim Martin.

Winann Steinmetz had the final list for the Big E awards. We have two cases this year that helps to accommodate the netting entries, which are large. There were 37 entries this year, which is a good showing. We need to keep up this level of participation to remain a department. Winann and Mary Linden were noted for setting up the displays and photographing the entries. Many thanks to both!

Jeannet van Oord: Sharon Sacco reminded everyone that Jeannet van Oord, who taught at NELG for many years, is celebrating her 90th birthday in January. Her daughter is trying to collect pictures and stories for a book for Jeannet. If you contribute to this project, we would also like you to share your contribution with the NELG newsletter so we can publish it next year.

Retreat: Winann Steinmetz discussed the retreat. We will be changing the venue to Rolling Ridge in North Andover MA. Sacred Hearts is for sale. While the price is prohibitive to the sale, there is a real risk that the inability to make major repairs could adversely affect the retreat. Winann did stop by Sacred Hearts to personally explain this to Sr. Claire. The search for a new facility included 15 candidates. Three were able to accommodate the date. Rolling Ridge was selected as the best choice of the three finalists.

Rolling Ridge is a little more expensive but reasonable. The facilities are comparable to Sacred Hearts. It overlooks a reservoir that does not allow swimming, but there are kayaks and canoes available. The meals are served buffet style, and they will accommodate special diets. Rolling Ridge is a non-alcoholic facility, but they will allow us to bring wine and beer (bring your own glass) as long as we take the bottles back home with us.

Rolling Ridge uses a formal contract. Since the contract requires a third down to reserve the facility, it was decided that this should be put to a vote. Note that the deposit has been typical of the retreat, but that the two previous facilities did not require a formal contract. Marjorie Dashef moved to accept, and Judy Jeon-Chapman seconded the motion. The deposit was approved.

35th Celebration: Since the Anniversary Party in November will be a simple cake, Winann Steinmetz suggested that to celebrate that all existing members as of New Years Eve 2017 get a free one-year extension of their membership. The discussions then turned to the prospect of new members, which should be encouraged. Several ideas were floated including free memberships for a year. This idea was discouraged since it could lead to problems with memberships mining for data. After much discussion, a proposal was hammered out for a “Buy one, get one free” membership for new or returning members in 2018. The motion to approve was made by Winann Steinmetz, Carmen Bartholomew seconded it. The motion was approved.

Treasurer’s Report: While Barbara Morrow has written a Treasurer’s Report, due to a family emergency, she was unable to attend. We hope she will be able to present it at the November meeting.

Vice President: Upcoming meetings:

October: We will take a road trip to the Windham Textile and History Museum in Willimantic CT. This is in the offices of the American Thread Company. This will be a tour only, no demonstration. People are encouraged to either bring lunch or go out to eat afterwards. This starts at 11 AM.

November: 35th Anniversary Party

December: Holiday Party

April: Jeri Ames will be down from Maine to make a presentation

May: Retreat

June: Annual meeting

Everyone is invited to help fill in the gaps in the schedule.

Jim Martin also reminded everyone that the Old Sturbridge Village “Festival of New England Makers” is the next weekend. We will be in the Bullard Tavern as usual. Lighting can be challenging there, and electricity is minimal. Demonstrators can access the site by car from 8 – 9 to drop off equipment. OSV opens at 9:30.

Carolyn Wetzel moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Martin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Sacco