

Emerald Society
January 9, 2003
Miami Yacht Club
Minutes

President's Report (Ed Cooke)

Made before call to order

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM and members were welcomed. Present were President Ed Cooke, First Vice President Michael O'Connor, Second Vice President John Wright, Secretary & Board member Carroll Cameron, Treasurer David Russell, Historian Dan Fitzgerald, Board members Bill O'Brien, Billy Cameron, Jim Cooney, Chris Kelly; Publications Director Stu Robinson; member John Doherty and guest June Drake.

Good of the Order

Stu Robinson will stay on as publications director for one more month. Suggestion by Robinson that the newsletter be sent as an email attachment to members who have email. Noted that printing and postage will be increasing.

Loudmouth has not been in operation because Louise Nolan is out of town frequently.

Directive: Fitzgerald to contact Nolan to make plans for accessing Loudmouth when she is not available to program the announcements.

VP O'Conner has done advance work for the St. Patrick's Festival by securing alcohol permits. Meetings begin on Monday with VP O'Conner as chair. The chair (O'Conner) presented the following contracts.

Showmobile (for the stage)	\$966.00
Dodge City (slide, rock wall, cotton candy machine)	\$1885
Tropical Tents	\$1014
Little Farm Petting Zoo (pending approval CG city manager, David Brown)	No charge

O'Brien reported that liability insurance for events has doubled, with the minimum quote he has gotten being \$5,000, required by Coral Gables to get the permit to have the festival.

Directive: O'Brien to continue looking for insurance.

The president did not get copies of new member applications so he did not send welcome letters. Publication director also did not get names to send them a newsletter.

Motion: by C. Cameron to start a procedural manual. Second by B. Cameron. **Motion passed.**

Directive: B. Cameron to prepare a page for a procedure manual on the process for handling new members so that they are included in the roster, and receive Loudmouth, publications, and welcome letter.

Directive: C. Cameron to prepare a procedure manual as officers and directors codify functions and email them to her.

Committee Reports

Membership (Bill Cameron)

John W. Thornton, Sr., sponsored by B.Cameron was accepted as a new member.

Social Site (Bill O'Brien)

Monday, January 27, 7:00 PM Surprise birthday party for Joe Healey at the Hurricane Lounge in Miami Springs.

Wednesday, January 29, 6:30 PM John Martin's (upstairs) Jazz night and kick off for St. Patrick's Festival

Directive: Robinson to put both January social events in the newsletter.

Directive: Fitzgerald to call Nolan to announce both January social events in LoudMouth.

Directive: O'Brien and Robinson to negotiate with the Miami Shores Country Club for a social event in February.

Directive: O'Brien to negotiate with the Taurus and Tuscany for April and May.

Cultural Series (Ed Cooke)

February 2, 3:00 PM, John Martin's. Stu Robinson to report on his recent visit to Dublin.

Health and Welfare

Judge Arthur Maginnis and Col. Frank Durkin passed away this past month. Chuck Panatierre is in a nursing home.

Emerald members are eligible to join Dade County's Federal Credit Union.

An Irish Studies Day and Nova Southeastern will be on January 25. **Motion** by O'Conner to sponsor this meeting for \$100. **Motion failed** for lack of a second.

Treasurer's Report (David Russell)

The treasurer's financial reports and proposed budgets are attached to these minutes.

One member owes \$40.00 for the Christmas dinner and one still owes for an ad in the St. Patrick's festival book.

Directive: B. Cameron to call the two members who owe for Christmas/St. Patrick's book and ask for payment.

Since the fiscal year is January 1-December 31, all member renewal is this month. Next month, reports begin again.

Motion: by Kelly to consider all people who joined in December 2002 to be 2003 members. Second by Russell. **Motion passed.**

Motion: by C.Cameron to use the old membership renewal forms and send them in the same mailing as the slate of officers and directors put out by the nominating committee. Second by O'Conner. **Motion passed.**

The treasurer pointed out that the cost of the newsletter when compared to the \$7500 in member yearly dues is exorbitant. We should consider less costly alternatives for distributing the newsletter, like email and fax. Also the Community Habilitation Center (Mr. Staniewicz, Ex. Dir) has not called the Treasurer regarding directions on where to send the \$1,000 check for the Christmas party for disabled citizens.

Jim Cooney has sold and collected for 2 ads for the festival book. Ads must be paid for at the time they are placed. Bill Owens check has been received but the treasurer has not received the paperwork for the ad from president. The treasurer urged the Board to keep checks with original forms until he has both. Ad forms are on the web page.

Directive: Russell to prepare a page for a procedure manual on the process for handling checks and requests for donations so that the Treasurer and other designated members of the Board have copies of all related materials.

On the Christmas festival prizes, Russel thinks he can get a 2/3 discount on the Norwegian Caribbean cruise line. He has paid for the American Airlines gift certificate to NY and has a commitment from Aer Lingus but needs information from C.L. Conroy before the airline will issue the voucher.

Motion by B. Cameron to give Russell and O'Brien authority to secure the cruise prize, up to \$500. Second by C. Cameron. **Motion passed.**

Minutes (C. Cameron)

The minutes were approved. The following directives were accomplished.

Cooney and O'Conner have interceded with the trustees of the 948 Elks Club to get reimbursement for overcharges. No response of yet.

Cooke wrote a paragraph for newsletter, thanking members for their support of the Christmas festival and explaining how we intend to correct the problems that occurred.

O'Brien called Vince Mitchell of CeeVee Productions to request a refund of a portion of the entertainment fee for the failure of Tony Kenny to show to the Christmas festival. No response yet.

O'Brien is investigating officers and directors insurance.

New Business

Nomination Committee

The 2003 nomination committee is Chris Kelly, chair, MaryAnne Fierro, and Stu Robinson.

Directive: Fitzgerald to check records to confirm the terms of the Board members, so the nomination committee knows who to replace.

Announcements

B.Cameron thanked Stu and June Robinson for their long support and service, noting that they are retiring to Melbourne.

President Cooke asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Calendar

Date	Event	Place
1/27/03	Social	Hurricane Lounge, Miami Springs
1/29/03	Social	John Martin's, Coral Gables
2/2/03	Celtic Cultural	John Martin's, Coral Gables
2/6/03	Board Meeting	Miami Yacht Club, Watson Island
2/26/03	Social	TBA

NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, February 6, 2003

December Directives

Directive: Cooke to write letter to Gov. Bush requesting a declaration naming March as Celtic American Month.

Directive: All Board members to attempt to get their friends to buy and sell ads for the festival book.

Directive: O'Brien and Russell to ask Tom Longman to send an estimate of costs for incorporating the St. Patrick's Day festival as a 501c(3) corporation.

Directive: O'Brien and Russell to ask Tom Longman to send an estimate of costs for incorporating the Emerald Society as a 501c(6) corporation.

New Directives

Directive: Fitzgerald to contact Nolan to make plans for accessing Loudmouth when she is not available to program the announcements.

Directive: O'Brien to continue looking for insurance.

Directive: B. Cameron to prepare a page for a procedure manual on the process for handling new members so that they are included in the roster, and receive Loudmouth, publications, and welcome letter.

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Carroll Cameron