

The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc
Board of Directors Meeting
Miami Yacht Club
Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Don Harrington, III, Richard Welch, Jr., John Doherty, Kassie Doyle, Meghan Knol, Johnette Hardiman, Sean Ferrel, Judi Tierney Sherry, Hugh Ryan, Dan Fitzgerald, Sean Glynn

Excused Absences: Ann Eustace, Noel McManus Stilling, Joe McManus, Chris Kelley

Guests: Ed Cooke, Mark Donnely

President's Report

- Foundation of Don's platform as President is building up the Society and increasing membership. Every member is assigned to bring in one new member (Either a full member or a friend of the Emeralds if not Irish). More members means more income. For the survival of the Society, everyone needs to bring in at least one new member

Secretary's Response

- May minutes sent out. Modified based upon comments from John Doherty pertaining to Bloomsday budget Motion to approve minutes as modified by J. Hardiman. Second by M. Knol. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report

- June Treasurer's Report
 - o Combined balance \$38,633.14
 - o For additional details, see the June Treasurer's Report
 - o Don Harrington made inquiries regarding four members who are not renewing. They did not provide reasons why. Suggests perhaps an exit survey.
 - o John reviewed list of members who have not paid yet. Ann Eustace needs help with membership. She is alone running.
 - o Motion to approve June report by J. Hardiman. Second by S. Glynn. Motion carries.

Committee Reports

- Membership – Johnette o/b/o Ann Eustace
 - o Membership committee met. Discussion regarding how to attract new members. Mostly, surveys suggest members want more socials. Membership wants to work together with PR committee to plan more socials. Discussion was also had about t-shirts, jewelry or other Irish symbols (via Café Press).

- Mark Donnelly's neighbor makes glass charms that can be surrounded by crystals, charms, etc. They are affordable.
 - Next membership committee meeting is June 26 at 6:30 at King's Creek Tavern. Everyone is encouraged to attend and bring their ideas.
 - Johnette has a scan of the membership form. She will send it to anyone who wants one.
 - Membership also wants to start a "Meet a Member" column in the Newsletter
 - If you want to help or contribute in any way, call Ann or Johnette.
 - Sean Ferrel has someone who can make shirts with an embroidered patch. He has passed this info to Ann. The t-shirts are ready to go. We just need an order. Ordering in bulk versus ordering one at a time only changes the price by a dollar or two.
 - Discussion had. We would like to look at samples. Also, we should put this up on the website to discern interest.
 - Sean will bring samples of the shirts to the next meeting
 - Judi states the Membership directory is ready to go to print. They might make one more plea for the ads to the membership (we only have \$200 for ads so far, but the budget counts on \$500).
 - Corporate Ads – Idea is to put corporate ads in the directory at the front for additional costs.
 - Discussion regarding deadline to renew membership if you want to be in the Directory.
 - Deadline = June 20 for ads and dues. Judi will send an email.
 - John has an application for membership.
 - Frances L. Baboun – she was a member three year ago, but now she is back and wants to renew her membership. She is sponsored by Carroll Cameron and is also good friends with Mary Ann Kerr. She has paid her check. J. Hardiman moves to approve Ms. Baboun as our new member. Second by H. Ryan. Motion carries.
 - Sean Glynn wants to minutes to note his pledge that if Mark Donnelly joins the membership committee, Sean Glynn will also join.
- Social Committee – Hugh Ryan
 - Past socials since January were discussed. We haven't had a real social in a few months (baseball game in April, Installation dinner in May, Bloomsday in June).
 - John points out social budget. We have eight social months for \$300 each. We have budget for four or five socials left for the balance of the year.
 - Social has spent \$632 of its \$2400 budget (plus \$300 for Bloomsday coming out soon).
 - Don stresses we have to get value for our dollar as members. We need to play up the perks of being an Emerald.
 - Hugh thinking about social at Irish Times on June 19.
 - Judi – this is really close to the June 13 Bloomsday social
 - Judi moves that the general rule of thumb should be Board Meeting on the first Thursday of the month and the Social on the last Wednesday of the month. Second by J. Hardiman. Motion carries.

- Installation Dinner – Judi Tierney Sherry
 - 50 people attended this year.
 - Board agrees that Judi did an excellent job on the event! Thank you for organizing this event to us!
 - Judi would like to give a special thank you to: Ken Pines donated the centerpieces; Johnette Hardiman provided great assistance, Bill Gregory was a wonderful MC.
- Celtic Cultural Series – John McManus (absent)
 - Ed Cooke presents his CCS report.
 - In 2012, CCS had been suspended. Ed picked up the CCS program in Jan 2013. This year (2014), CCS has generally switch to a discussion of books about the Irish.
 - The May 2014 CCS discussed the book “How the Irish Became White.”
 - CCS provides the opportunity for thoughtful discussion of serious, Irish issues. We had around 20 people attend this event.
 - Attendees really enjoy the event. Ask them!
 - Please come see us!
 - CCS costs
 - \$48 – spent in March
 - In May, CCS spent \$23 for the book and copies.
 - Meghan Knol – confused. There were emails about the emeralds paying the \$100 stipend to the speaker.
 - Ed says this discussion can be tabled until Joe is back (Ed will be back in October).
 - Ed would also like to thank the Board for sending this month’s agenda to all of the members.
 - Friday nights, join past presidents at Joe Healy’s restaurant
- Website and Big Mouth
 - These are not being utilized to their fullest potential. The biggest benefit of Big Mouth is repetition.
 - We need to advertise things far in the future! Get things on website and advertised early! We should have a social page or a real calendar.
 - Please send in requests for Big Mouth and Website early and often!
 - Meghan suggests that before next Board meeting we reach out to the membership to see if anyone is interested in acting as Webmaster.
 - Judi notes there are 12 directors who do not have any assignment or responsibility. Directors should step up to the plate.
 - Sean Ferrel says he previously did some research. He found an inexpensive web host and there is a program that is user friendly and make it easy to do. He does not have time to run website, but he can work with whomever wants to be webmasters to help them get set up.
 - John – Website costs about \$600/year
- Fourth of July Parade –
 - Hugh Ryan has the flags.
 - Richard is the Quarter Master.
 - Hugh says Billy Cameron has the banners

- Budget for July 4 parade is \$250.
- Judi – has anyone touched base with Camerons to make sure they are doing it again this year?
 - Apparently not. Don will call Billy.
- Half Way to St. Patrick's Day
 - Hugh – did Blair take this over? Hugh thinks that he did. He is going to help Blair. Sean Ferrell also volunteers to help.
 - Topic tabled as we have a few months before it happens.
 - Need to get buses, select itinerary, etc.
- Shamrock News – Don Harrington o/b/o Joe McManus
 - Joe wants to send it out soon
- Health and Welfare o Judi Tierney Sherry
 - Congratulations to Dan and Dolores Fitzgerald who are doing well after recent minor health issues
 - Best wishes to Oliver Kerr, who is in a wheelchair
 - Breffni Irish Dancers went to Ireland for a competition. Three dancers place in the top 30 out of thousands of dancers
- PR Committee – Noel McManus Stillings (absent)
 - Sean Glynn volunteers to call Breffni dancers to get details on competition to send to newsletter

Old Business – none

New Business

- Sean Glynn – Are board members required by by-law to be in committee?
 - We need to review the by laws
 - Sean Ferrel, as best he recalls, advises that each officer is charged with overseeing a certain number of committees. Those officers should appoint committee chairs.
 - Judi – What are we doing about a second vice president?
 - Don welcomes nominations from the Board. He wants to know who will participate and step up in a positive way.
 - Hugh Ryan suggests the nominating committee could come up with suggestions as to whom Don can appoint.
 - Don will draft email to send out to membership to see if anyone wants to volunteer to be on the Board
- Don Harrington welcomes nominations for vacancies
- This is Meghan Knol's last Board Meeting. THANK YOU for all of your support and participation, Meghan! Good luck in medical school!!
- Next meeting is scheduled for July 3, 2014 at 6:30 at Miami Yacht Club
 - We should reschedule in light of the Fourth of July holiday.
 - Motion to reschedule July board meeting to Tuesday, July 1 by H. Ryan. Second my M. Knol. Motion carries

Next meeting, TUESDAY July 1, 2013.

Motion to Adjourn by Sean Ferrel. Second by M. Knol. Motion carries.