

South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.

**Board of Directors' Meeting
Miami Yacht Club
Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 7:00 PM**

Agenda

Call to order

President Oliver Kerr called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance. New Board Member Jeff Bailey was introduced. Those present were President Oliver Kerr, First Vice President Janice McKay, Treasurer John Doherty, Board Members Joe McManus, Mary Gerhardt, Dan Fitzgerald, Chuck Daley, Jeff Bailey and Sean Ferrell. Also present were Members Mary Ann Kerr, Barbara McManus and Ann McShane.

Board Members excused were Erin Ashley, Jon Lindeman, Chris Kelley, Judi Sherry, and Bill O'Brien. Hugh Ryan had said he would be late but he never made it to the meeting so minutes were taken by Mary Ann Kerr. Bella Kelly has sent a note of resignation due to personal work issues.

Order of Business

There were no changes.

Secretary's Report

In the absence of Secretary Hugh Ryan the emailed minutes he sent were reviewed by Pres. Kerr. With no changes or revisions Joe McManus moved to accept them with a second by Dan Fitzgerald. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

John Doherty presented his financial reports which he had emailed to the Board previous to the meeting. He brought up two points: 1. Why is the 50/50 not being offered at the socials? and 2. \$250.00 is the approximate amount being spent on the Socials and the Social Committee may need to look at and revise their budget. John also noted that at the next meeting we should consider the possibility of investing in a 4th CD.

Janice McKay noted that the Emerald Society has \$41,000.00 at the present time and she suggests that we give more mobility to this money for various functions. For example, she would like more funds for the

Installation Dinner, specifically Program covers. John suggests that she amend her budget.

John proposed that we update our Big Mouth Phone Tree system. He noted that we paid about \$1,000. for it five years ago and we chose not to update. Now we are offered two options: \$99. with no support and \$125. with one year support. There is great capability with this revised system but there is no budget money for this without Board approval. Jeff Bailey made a motion, seconded by Mary Gerhardt, that we purchase the new system with support for the additional \$26. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Installation Dinner: Janice McKay

Janice reported that last year we had 80 attendees. Mary Ann Kerr reports only 26 responses so far. John Doherty said that we must give the final report to Jungle Island by May 17th.

A 50/50 will be held at the Dinner on May 20. Mary Gerhardt and Erin Ashley will conduct it. Mary Ann Kerr has extras tickets. Judi Sherry will inquire about the possibility of the Police Bagpipers for entertainment. Will we pay them?

Judge Carol Kelly will do the Installation. Janice will call her and ask her for a backup just in case, because we were informed that her mother is ill. Janice will also remind her that her dues are due.

As mentioned previously Janice has requested more funds for the Dinner. Motion was made by Joe McManus, seconded by Jeff Bailey to increase her budget by \$220. Motion passed.

Christmas in Ireland: Erin Ashley

In Erin's absence Mary Gerhardt gave the report. First, they are asking PLEASE for more volunteers for this function. Feedback from last year's function which was very well attended was that the \$7. drinks were too expensive and that perhaps Thursday was not a good night to hold the party. The Committee is looking into the possibility of something not so expensive, perhaps just a cocktail party and maybe a switch in dates to January. The Committee was asked to come back next month with alternatives to present to the Board.

John Doherty noted that the raffle held at this function is a big motivator and helps raise money for the organization. Mary Ann Kerr suggested that the Emerald Society purchase two round trip tickets to Ireland and have this be our main raffle prize. Other prizes could be donated, for example, the Emerald Board could put together a basket of cheer.

Membership: Billy and Carroll Cameron

In the absence of the Camerons no new members were reported. However, John Doherty noted that he has sent out 28 letters to those who haven't renewed their membership asking them why. Only two responded. In one case a financial hardship was very obvious. Jeff Bailey, seconded by Chuck Daley, made a motion to delegate authority to the treasurer to waive membership dues when there is a need to do so, a Hardship Waiver, but not to exceed \$1000. (for the good of the Society). Motion passed. Jeff Bailey (#1 - 14) and Mary Gerhardt (#15-28) volunteered to call all the outstanding unpaid members. Janice McKay will call Judge Kelly.

Social Committee: Bill O'Brien

The May Social is the Installation Dinner on May 20th. The June Social originally scheduled for June 17th had to be changed to the following week because the day before the 17th is the Cultural Series Bloomsday Celebration in Coral Gables (June 16th, 6:30 PM at Books and Books). Bill O'Brien will need to be contacted by Joe McManus for the new details to be published in the upcoming newsletter. Janice McKay wants to make the Socials more centrally located (ex. Coral Gables) but Mary Gerhardt mentioned that if we want membership from all over we need to spread out the Socials even though the attendance recently at Miami Shores Country Club was low.

Website and Big Mouth: John Doherty

John Doherty encourages us to use these resources more often. Tell him of any functions/events going on so he can post it on the website or announce it on Big Mouth when a script is submitted. John is checking into privacy issues on the Website.

Shamrock News: Joe and Barbara McManus

The May newsletter will go out this weekend.

New Business

In remembrance of the Great Hunger in Ireland in the 1800's a Famine Memorial Mass will be celebrated in the Gaelic language at Little Flower Church in Hollywood, Florida on Sunday, May 17th at 2 PM. Following the Mass there will be a reception at The Field Restaurant in Davie, Florida. More about this will be published in the newsletter.

Health and Welfare: Mary Ann Kerr

A sympathy card was sent to Chuck Harty on the tragic death of his sister.

Adjournment

A motion by Jeff Bailey, seconded by Mary Gerhardt called for adjournment at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Ann Kerr (for Hugh Ryan)

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