

The Emerald Society
October 9, 2003
Miami Yacht Club
Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Present were President Michael O'Connor, First Vice President, Tom Dunn, Second Vice President & Board Member, Bill O'Brien; Immediate Past President, Ed Cooke; Secretary & Board member Carroll Cameron; Treasurer & Board Member David Russell; Board members: Dan Fitzgerald, Billy Cameron, John Kane, Mary Ann Fierro, Joe McManus, Oliver Kerr, Patrick Novak, John Cosgrove; members John Doherty and Boris Jaynes. A quorum was established.

Order of Business

The order of business was adopted.

Secretary Report (C. Cameron)

The secretary's report was approved as amended. Accomplished directives from previous months were marked for deletion in this report.

Treasurer's Report (D. Russell)

The treasurer presented several detailed reports which are attached to the minutes. The treasurer also noted that new members are not renewing and that we need to take steps to improve retention. He again noted that in spite of lack of calls to the Emerald voice mail, the phone lines are costing the society about \$60.00/month, with long distance calls increasing the costs.

The treasurer also noted that some ads for the St. Patrick's booklet have not yet been paid for.

Motion by Fitzgerald to write off unpaid ads. Second by Cooke. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Russell to accept no ads in the St. Patrick's festival book that are not paid for in advance. Second by Fitzgerald. **Motion passed.**

Motion by Fierro to purchase a half page ad in the Harling Irish Dance Academy book. Second by O'Brien. **Motion Passed. Directive:** Kane to develop a half page ad promoting the Annual Christmas Show and Dinner with Irish entertainment and place the ad in the Harling Irish Dance Academy book.

Committee Reports

Incorporation Committee (Michael O'Connor)

O'Brien, O'Connor, & Russell have continued to meet with Robert Trescott, Esq., about the incorporation process. The Articles of Incorporation for the South Florida Emerald Society as a 501(c)(7) corporation and the St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee, Inc. as a 501(c)(3) corporation will be filed next week.

Annual Christmas Show and Dinner (Dunn)

O'Brien negotiated a move to the Dadeland Marriott because the Coral Gables Country Club could not guarantee they would be opened by December. The date has been moved to December 8, 2003. The charge to the Society will be \$25.50 per person, plus tax and tip, to reach approximately \$30.00 per person. Attendees will have a choice of salmon, chicken, or prime rib for entrees.

Motion by Cooke to increase price for tickets to \$50.00 per person. Second by Fitzgerald. **Motion Passed.** Raffle tickets must be sold to allow the organization to break even. A new contract reflecting a penalty rebate for failure of the lead singer to appear is ready for Dunn to sign. Fierro, O'Brien, Russell and O'Connor volunteered to be on the Committee which will meet on Monday nights with Dunn in Jack Thompson's office.

Motion by Russell to require payment for dinner three days prior to the event. **Motion failed** for lack of second.

Directive: Fierro to take charge of sending invitations.

Directive: Russell to contact Phil Johnson about making changes to invitations and getting them printed.

Directive: Russell to negotiate with Aer Lingus for a grand prize for the raffle – a flight to Ireland.

Directive: O'Brien to try to find a resort ticket for a second prize.

Directive: Karen Dunn to handle raffle tickets. Only the grand prize will be printed on the tickets.

Directive: Doherty to add details about the Annual Christmas Show and Dinner party to the website and put Dunn down as the contact.

Directive: Russell to sign contract with Marriott and pay deposit.

Membership (Billy Cameron)

The following applicants were accepted as new members.

Name	Sponsor
Christopher Vasallo	Bill O'Brien/Dan Fitzgerald
Nancy McDermott	Chuck Hardy
Nabil Salem (Friend of Emerald)	Ed Cooke

One new member wanted to withdraw and asked for a dues refund. **Motion** by Fitzgerald to refund. Second by O'Brien. **Motion passed.** The president appointed John Doherty to chair a membership retention committee to develop a member services process designed to make new members active so that they renew their membership. Volunteers for the committee were Patrick Novak, Joe McManus, and Mary Ann Fierro.

Directive: New membership retention committee (Doherty, Novak, McManus, and Fierro) to meet this month and develop procedures for membership services. Procedures should be written down and emailed to the secretary to be included in the procedures manual.

Social Site (Bill O'Brien)

October's social is not set yet. Suggestions included the Play Write Irish Pub on Miami Beach and the Miami Springs Country Club.

Membership Decal Committee (Dan Fitzgerald, Carroll Cameron)

The window decal design was approved.

Directive: C. Cameron to tell Pen and Ink to go ahead with printing 1,000 of the window decals.

Membership Card Committee (Dave Russell, Michael O'Connor)

Directive: Membership committee to decide on an appropriate design for a membership card.

Directive: C. Cameron to obtain a quote from Pen and Ink for a membership card with the full color logo on it.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe and Barbara McManus will be taking over the cultural series. Fierro and Kerr volunteered to assist.

Interested members are invited to attend a preliminary meeting to discuss the formation of a committee to take charge of the St. Patrick's Festival. O'Connor, O'Brien, Kane, Russell, and Cooke volunteered to meet in the cocktail lounge at the Biltmore on Tuesday, October 14, to choose a chair. All Emerald Society members, not just Board members, are urged to volunteer and attend the meeting.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Dunn gave an eloquent description of Tom Murphy's wake and thanked those who attended

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.
NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2003

Calendar

Date	Event	Place
10/29/03	Monthly Social	To be announced
11/6/03	Board Meeting	Miami Yacht Club
12/8/03	Annual Christmas Show and Dinner	Dadeland Marriott

Carroll Cameron