

The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc.
Board of Directors' Meeting

Miami Yacht Club

Thursday, September 5, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. sharp
Meeting Minutes

Present: Hugh A. Ryan, Sean Hayes, Richard C. Welch Jr., John Doherty, Daniel L. Fitzgerald, Kassie Doyle, Christopher P. Kelley, Paul Reilly, Judith Tierney Sherry, Joseph W. McManus, Sean M. Ferrell, Noel McManus Stillings, Meghan Knol

Excused Absences: Don Slesnick III, Anne Eustace, Chris Kelley, Bill Gregory, Blair Brogan

Unexcused Absences: Patrick L. Duffy, Chuck Daley, Jeffrey Bailey

Guests: Barbara McManus, Bill O'Brien

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Welcome any guests:

Order of Business:

President's Report: (Hugh Ryan) For the Good of the Order

- At the next meeting, we will address vacant Board positions

Secretary's Report: (Kassie Doyle)

Minutes of July Board meeting

- July – Last line: "The requested amount is full". K. Doyle to change this to "the requested amount has been depleted."
- With clarification, J. McManus moves to approve minutes. S. Hayes seconds. Motion passes.

Treasurer's Report: (John Doherty)

- As of September 1, 2013, Checking account balance is \$16,545.44 and the CD combined balance: \$38,639.45. For additional information, please see Treasurer's Report.
- J. McManus moves to approve. Second by S. Hayes. Motion passes.

Committee Reports:

• **Socials- (Paul Reilly)**

- 1/2 way to St. Patrick' Day Pub Crawl-Friday Sept. 13- Mary Gerhardt (report by P. Reilly)
 - Next week. One bus is full (29). Second bus is paid for.
 - As of today, 12 tickets have been paid for \$360
 - Discussion held as to whether to cancel second bus. J. Doherty and M. Gerhardt agreed we should keep second bus for now.
 - P. Reilly will ask M. Gerhardt to request another renewed email blast

- October Social
 - Oct 17 or 24 (date not sure yet)
 - Will be at Irish Times

- **Christmas in Ireland plans-(K. Doyle)**
 - Event will be held at Hall of Knights in downtown Coral Gables on December 6, 2013.
 - Open bar all night! Parking will be provided free of charge.
 - Maximum attendance = 175 persons.
 - Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882 by an Irish priest.
 - J. Tierney Sherry – Music?
 - In light of cost of the venue the committee is considering music options. May have live band, DJ, or do it ourselves. Need to consider budget and what funding we have available before making final decision.
 - Raffle prizes- Tickets- dinner tickets- a group effort! Let's make some money!
 - By October meeting will endeavor to have raffle tickets.
 - Will Board be required to donate prizes? No, but they will be asked to donate.
 - J. McManus – can we put something in the Newsletter inviting raffle prizes? Yes!
 - No liquor license necessary. We will not be purchasing liquor.
 - No insurance policy will have to be provided by the Emeralds. They are fully insured.
 - Save the Date – There is a save the date website. Emeralds also have an E-Vite Account

- **Membership – (Sean Hayes & Ann Eustace)**
 - We are waiting for proof from Publisher to review and make any necessary last minute changes to the Directory.
 - Ad revenue covered the cost of the directory printing
 - Membership had committee meeting to discuss incentives, keeping members in, and encouraging future membership.
 - Suggestions on how we can recruit new members were discussed.
 - Applications
 - Except for “Children of Emeralds” and persons who live far away, the application is complete.
 - Different prices are not printed on the application (per by-laws)
 - J. Tierney Sherry: When new applications are in, can we send them out as attachment via an E mail blast?
 - J. Doherty: 46 members still unpaid. What is the committee doing to try to get them in? Is the Membership Committee adequately staffed to make individual calls? There was a survey discussed at a prior meeting. What happened to it (was it sent? What were the results?)
 - Committee is composed of two persons. Ann has done most of the work. Emails and phone calls have been made/ sent. There is a lot of work and not

- many people. The membership struggle has been an issue for over 2 years. Sean is open to any recommendations.
 - H. Ryan – Ann is not here, but she is full of enthusiasm. Hugh will speak with her and mention the survey.
 - J. Doherty thinks this should be the biggest committee because it is the most important to this organization.
 - M. Knol: If this needs to be the biggest committee, people of a wide variety of ages should be appointed
- Historian's Corner- Dan Fitzgerald
 - Gathering at the Hurricane Bar
 - Joel Healey has a great steak on Friday nights.
 - Billy & Carol Cameron brought Ollie and Mary Ann Kerr. Don Herrington brought his two children, plus a neighbor and his wife (possible perspective members). Bill O'Brien was there. Joe and Gloria. Quite a few Emeralds. Joe was quite pleased. It was a fun get together.
 - What happened to discussion about bench in Fred Hartnett park to honor Marge Hartnett?
 - J. Tierney Sherry: the simplest thing to do is have a plate made and stick it on. The politics involved in getting a plaque are very complicated.
 - Janice McKay has a projector that belongs to Celtic Cultural Series, but the projector is very old. She has a screen (J. Tierney Sherry: Charlie may have it now). Janice claims she is owed funds from past years and she wants to be refunded. She is holding onto items until the accounts are settled. J. Doherty wants a third party to value the projector/screen, etc. Since CCS is now under Emerald Society, we should decide as a group what to do.
 - For example, if we want to show a movie, which is a good idea, we need to get the projector (and possibly screen) from Janice and try to settle up accounts.
 - Letter from Joanne and Mike Baxter
 - Estate of Marjory Hartnett – left check for \$1,000 to the Emerald Society, an organization she dearly cared about, in her will.
 - The President of the Emerald Society acknowledges the letter and receipt of the check for \$1,000 with great humility and respect
 - President H. Ryan will send a letter to the organization acknowledging this gift from Marge
 - H. Ryan: Next meeting we will discuss how to spend this money
- Website and Big Mouth –(J. Doherty)
 - If you want to use it, send John the info and he will send it out. It is a great tool so use it.
 - M. Knol: Have we ever considered a PayPal account for due payments or pub crawl donations?
 - J. Doherty: Yes. We looked at PayPal, Master Card, Visa, etc. We do not have enough transactions/ volume to make it worth it. The PayPal people charge a sur-fee, so it would cost us money to collect the money.
- *Shamrock News* –(Joe & Barbara McManus)

- Want to include the page to purchase St. Patrick's Day Souvenir Book Advertising in next newsletter
- Newsletter welcomes pictures, especially for pub crawl
- Celtic Cultural Series (B. McManus)
 - October 13th
 - Professor Sean Quilter from Barry University who has taught Celtic Language and Art. He has also taught at Ft. Lauderdale Art Institute. He will give a lecture.
- Health & Welfare- (J. Tierney)
 - Mary Ann Kerr is going to need more chemotherapy. She has more scans to be taken, but they are telling her that even if the scans are clear she will still need new sessions
 - Oliver Kerr is at Baptist hospital. He had an incident this morning. They don't know what happened, but they are running tests. He is stable.
 - Kassie Doyle got engaged.
 - Meghan Knol ran a half marathon.

Unfinished Business

New Business

- St. Kieran's Feast day- Irish entertainment
 - They have a new pastor, a bishop from Colorado.
 - September 15th event with Irish entertainment and information about St. Kieran
 - Located between Mercy Hospital and LaSalle High School.

Good of the Order/ Adjournment by 7:30PM

- Adjourned at 7:45

Next meeting: Thursday, October 3, 2013-6:30 PM Miami Yacht Club