

## ExComm Meeting Minutes for October 8, 2023, at 3:00 PM

- Roll Call
- Present Lisa Blair, Cathy Chopping, Linda Christina, Dan Chesnut, Jacki Nesbitt. Ken Silver joined the meeting at 3:25. Absent were Art Schwartz, Rob Bradford and Kathy Crum.
- Open Meeting
- Scribe's Report (Linda)
  - Linda was absent for the August Ex-Comm meeting.
    - Thank you for Lisa Blair for taking the Scribe responsibility in my absence.
    - Minutes accepted
- New ExComm, Officer Positions –
  - We welcomed new ExComm Members Dan Chesnut and Cathy Chopping
  - All other Officer Positions were unchanged, no one expressed interest in positions or requested to resign except the following
    - Cathy would like to find new Editor by 1<sup>st</sup> of the year
    - Lisa would like this year to be her last year as LocSec
- Asst Loc Sec (Art)
  - Art not present , no report sent
- Treasurers Report (Kathy)
  - Kathy Submitted Report to Connect. There were no questions on report.
- Scholarship report (Linda)
  - Scholarship season began Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> and we have already had 30 essays submitted – the most we have had this early in the season since I've been Chair.
  - Out of those 30, I have already had to disqualify 9. None of these nine were disqualified for the reason that they named themselves in the essay. All were disqualified because they did not state their academic or career goals. All were personal stories or commentaries about subjects important to the student:
    - Social equity and inclusion
    - Banned books
    - Political commentaries
    - Personal stories
  - So far, I have only 3 explicit volunteers to judge based on my email to last years' judges. I am looking forward to the email that Lisa will send to our membership, which worked so well last year.
- Something new to report for this year –
  - This year, my employer, Raymond James is a sponsor of the **Invest In Others program**, which offers Grants for Good and Grants for Change, to provide funding to meet the needs of nonprofits and the communities they serve. The program provides an opportunity for those working in the financial services industry to secure funding for specific programs or projects on behalf of a nonprofit that they support. Whether it's enhancing an existing program or supporting a new initiative, financial professionals can help bridge funding gaps through these grant opportunities.
  - Each grant program awards up to \$20,000 to nonprofits.
  - Their URL is <https://investinothers.org/grant-program>.

- I thought that this would be a great way to bolster the scholarship award pool. So I emailed Jill Beckham, Director of Mensa Foundation, to see if this was something they would be interested in pursuing. Jill responded that she did think the Foundation would be interested and copied John Thompson, Director of Development and Organizational Impact. John responded, “Yes! 10x over to your question. What a great find.”
- Since then, John and I have had 2 Zoom meetings, as I needed help with some of the questions on the application. (One of the facts I found most surprising is that there are only 2 full-time employees of the Foundation. Everyone else is a volunteer!
- The application has been submitted and awards will be announced 12/11/23. I am hopeful that this will result in more funds for unrestricted scholarships (those that are not limited to local groups).
- Program Officer (Ken)
  - The Cruise was a success.
  - Picnic is 3 weeks from today – Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Meet & Greet status is on hold for the time being.
  - He may want to give up his role as program officer in future.
- Membership Report (Art)
  - Local group snapshot posted by Lisa
  - James is the Deputy Membership Officer and sends out welcome packages to new members once a month.
- Testing Coordinator (Open)
  - Lisa said we have lost several sites, but there is a new in person testing center option.
  - Testing Coordinator Open
- Publicity (Open)
  -
- Loc Sec Report (Lisa)
  - Winter Social - Tampa Palms, St. Pete, Clearwater?
- Social Media (Jacki)
  - Out of commission for right now due to computer issues.
  - Lisa has admin rights, so she can substitute for now while Jacki is without a computer.
  - Jacki has encountered people who have requested access but can't supply membership numbers.
- Web Master
  - James Gamble was not present.
  - Lisa reported he maintains site and following up with changes and password to Lisa and Kathy.
- Gifted Youth (Open)
  - Lisa Reported we have parent vetting for events.
  - Lisa is hoping maybe Cathy will be interested.
- New Business
  - Dan's made the point that he doesn't know who all our members are and he thinks that info should be available to all.

- Lisa advised the member list is on the National Site
- Dan is an advocate for greater transparency within our group.
- Lisa can write a tutorial for the newsletter.
- Dan asked that the information on how to access this List be included in every Sounding.
- Next meeting date is Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 3:00 PM.
- This meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.