

ASSOCIATION FOR CATHOLIC CHILDHOOD

Minutes for March 15, 2017 ACC Board Meeting

President Maureen Britt called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., followed by opening prayer offered by Maureen Britt.

In attendance were Maureen Britt, Deirdre Brownlow, Helen Santucci, Barbara Easter, Joan Walton, Anne Read-Andersen, Mary Lou Wickwire, Nancy O'Brien, Gayle Kaplan, Kristy Charles, Lois Eason, Marilyn Price, Theresa Gallant, Judy Schroeder, Patty Barnes, Barbara Easter, Judy McAteer, Joyce Butler, Colleen Cook and Pat Freund.

MINUTES: Approved as presented for the February 2017 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Deirdre acted for Mary Roddy and distributed a balance sheet and profit and loss sheet for February 2017. Two of our grantees had not cashed their checks yet so Deirdre is following up.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Labor of Love Auction: Lots of labor was involved in pulling off another successful online auction. In particular, Deirdre, Gail, Barbara and Marilyn worked hard to procure, catalog, photograph, and distribute items. Other ACC members delivered items to winning bidders. The auction netted approximately \$25,500 – a record amount. Congratulations and many thanks to Deirdre and team!

April meeting: Next month's meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 18th at 7pm at Assumption Parish. It will be held downstairs in the St. Joseph Room, at no charge to ACC. The same three hostesses have graciously offered to provide food and drink as they did this month: Judy McAteer, Nancy O'Brien, and Mary Lou Wickwire.

Insurance: Through the efforts of Nancy Tribolet of the St. Therese Circle, ACC has ensured that it is included within the purview of CCS's insurance policy. ACC and all its functions are now covered.

Name change progress: Maureen noted that ACC's flyers and literature will need to be updated with a new logo. An informal committee is being convened to determine the logo.

ACC 100th anniversary celebration: Maureen said that spring 2018 (instead of fall 2017) is the target date for "Celebrate the Children" and our 100th anniversary celebration. The memorial Mass might then be held in fall 2018. CCS will also be celebrating its 100th next year. There was discussion as to how closely to celebrate the two entities' centennials: CCS has marketing advantages, so fundraising might increase. "Celebrate the Children" usually raises about \$30K, plus underwriting of about \$15K. Various sites are being considered, including MOHAI and the Mountaineers Club at Magnuson Park. The rental fee for Mountaineers is \$1250 for 4 hours; \$2300 for 8 hours but there is no kitchen on-site. Fremont Studios is another possibility, as is Knights of Columbus hall near First Hill. Patty Barnes mentioned that The Elks bought Ponti's restaurant near the Fremont Bridge, which is a terrific location. Patty suggested forming a task force to investigate possible locations; Gayle and Theresa agreed to join Patty in scouting locations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advocacy: Mary Lou Wickwire reported that the “Dream Big” breakfast was held March 4, 2017 at the Bell Harbor Conference Center; it raised \$48,000. The program manager of Pregnancy and Parenting Support is also holding a fundraiser breakfast on Saturday, April 8th at St. Edwards’ social hall. There will be volunteer cooks and is a “homespun” affair. This event does not historically raise a lot of money but raises awareness and good feeling.

Legislative action: The state legislature is still in session. Our representative thanked us for advocating causes endorsed by the Children’s Alliance.

Family Law CASA: Deirdre noted that Family Law CASA, an organization which we support, is having a fundraiser in April. More information will be in the newsletter.

By-law review committee: Barbara Easter and Patty Barnes have agreed to review the by-laws this year.

May Luncheon (May 10th): The ticket price increased to \$40 to make sure the luncheon breaks even this year. Speakers are Cynthia McGee and another speaker from the Eastside emergency family shelter. The also spoke at the Cosmos for a Cause fundraiser in January. A priest is needed to say grace and enjoy a free lunch. Nancy O’Brien has raffle tickets to distribute to a few more circles. A few hundred more tickets are available to sell. Deirdre emphasized that the raffle used to net \$4,000 and now only nets half as much. In the past, circle members marketed the raffle to those outside of ACC. It would be very helpful if each circle were to take and sell three extra books.

Rundown on the LOL auction: Deirdre reported on which items generated the most bidding: sports tickets, foods, cocktail parties, gift cards, show tickets, services, and some artwork. Home items did not generally sell for value. It takes 20 minutes to log and photograph each item, so small value items aren’t really worth the effort to deliver, etc. Gift cards are an ideal donation because they are easy to put online and they sell for full value. More casual items also sold well, such as McDonald’s gift certificates paired with movie tickets. Dick’s gift certificates are always a big seller too, although they need 3 months’ notice for donation prior to auction date.

On that note, procurement efforts need to begin in October so donors with long lead times are not excluded from the auction. We also need a broader range of auction bidders than our current list. New donors are also needed to spice up the variety of items offered. Deirdre suggested we review various Bidding for Good auctions for ideas.

Deirdre also advocated for locating more underwriters (whose companies would of course be advertised on our BFG site).

Next year we will form teams to do procurement, promotion, pre-auction and post-auction tasks. Barbara Easter and Marilyn Price were great pre- and post-auction volunteers. Barbara mailed a lot of the out-of-town bidders’ items.

Endowment: Theresa Gallant reported that the endowment has increased to \$803,775, so our million dollar goal is attainable. The endowment generated about \$20,000 to be distributed to grantees (divided between spring and fall grants for this calendar year).

CIRCLE EVENTS AND PROJECT UPDATES:

Katherine Meloy Circle: Maureen report that its luncheon and fashion show were held March 11th at the Washington Athletic Club. Total proceeds are not available yet, but the circle should net at least \$5,000. There were about 125 attendees (fewer than prior years). Chico's sponsored the fashion show.

Fr. Joseph Vogel Circle: Its fashion show and luncheon will be held April 20th at St. Paul Parish for \$20/person. Chico's will also be sponsoring this fashion show.

Maude Rogers Circle will hold its luncheon and fashion show on April 29th at the Glendale Country Club (a new location for the event). Chico's is once again doing this fashion show. There will be a live auction as well as a silent one this year.

Katie McKay Circle will not hold its plant sale this year. Instead, it plans to hold a glassybaby roadshow. The plan is to host an evening out with appetizers, wine, dessert, and a chance to purchase beautiful glassybabies, with a cut going to ACC.

Benevity: Deirdre reported that this organization coordinates matching funds for Microsoft, T-Mobile and other corporations. Deirdre has ensured that ACC is fully vetted by Benevity and donations to ACC can now be matched by employers.

Thanks to Judy McAteer, Nancy O'Brien & Mary Lou Wickwire for hospitality this morning.

Hospitality: Judy McAteer, Nancy O'Brien & Mary Lou Wickwire will once again provide refreshments at the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Read-Andersen

(Morning meeting secretary)