

ADVOCACY AND CARING FOR CHILDREN

Minutes for January 15, 2019 ACC Board Meeting

President Patty Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and Anne Read-Andersen offered an opening prayer. In attendance were (12) members: Patty Barnes, Deirdre Brownlow, Marilyn Price, Nancy O'Brien, Stephanie Read, Anne Read-Andersen, Mary Lou Wickwire, Lois Eason, Anne Quigg, Kristen Dittmaier, Joyce Butler, and Gayle Kaplan.

MINUTES: November minutes were approved by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Roddy was not able to attend but provided financial statements and balance sheets for November and December. Endowment is at approximately \$955,00 (slightly lower due to market conditions).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Endowment Committee: The committee has become temporarily inactive after Theresa Gallant and others shepherded the endowment to its \$1 million high point as a result of ACC's 100th Anniversary Gala celebration. Deirdre Brownlow noted that the committee can be re-instituted if a need is identified. Patty Barnes and Deirdre encouraged all ACC members to participate in the white envelope drive by donating annually to the endowment. The Christmas endowment drive involves a letter sent to the ACC database, with unique paper Christmas ornaments as a thank-you to donors. The Christmas drive generated \$3,000 or more this year. The wording of ACC's endowment fund policy is outdated so our financial advisor has suggested that it be edited and will propose draft language soon. Currently, ACC can gift 3% of the endowment toward grant requests. Once the endowment exceeds \$1 million, the board can decide whether to increase the percentage directed toward grants.

ACC goals: One goal is to build membership by adding 2 more circles and 35 new members. Another is to increase fundraising by \$20,000, which is a 35% increase. ACC will continue to support the endowment. Another goal is to continue using Groopit to raise awareness of circle events and promote community. Finally, ACC needs to recruit members with specific experience in marketing and communications experience.

Proposal for new home tour fundraiser: The current home tour in Magnolia is held every other year, raising about \$25,000. Kristen Dittmaier's circle is considering sponsoring a similar home tour in the Laurelhurst/View Ridge area of Seattle, to be held on an every other year basis from the Magnolia tour. It is hoped that another circle or two will join in the effort. Every-other-year home tour in Laurelhurst/View Ridge area. Anne Quigg proposed having a van for older members to get around to see the homes, and to ensure there are some accessible homes on the tour.

Labor of Love auction: ACC's online auction is just one month away and many more items are needed. Gift cards are always popular and Costco gift cards can be an especially good value. New Costco offerings include Molly Moon and iFly. Other popular auction items are purses, certain jewelry, experiences like dinner parties, tickets to Husky, Sounders, Seahawks, and Storm games, and tickets to shows or events, including sold-out shows like "Dear Evan Hansen." Movie theater gift cards and glassy babies are perennial favorites.

ACC President availability: Patty is available to come to circle meetings and hopes to attend each ACC fundraiser this year. She suggested that each circle invite its pastor to come to a meeting in order to familiarize our parishes with ACC and to garner their support.

CCS program tour: The second van trip to tour ACC grant recipient programs will tentatively happen on February 4th, 2019 at 2:30pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Anne Q reported that Tara O'Connor and Kristen Dittmaier have joined the task force to increase membership. One simple way to grow membership is to have each circle add two members. However, some circles have a capped membership quota due to space and other concerns. The updated ACC brochure is available to answer questions about ACC. The task force has identified parishes that could support a new, younger circle. Anne Q. highlighted the need to develop a succinct "elevator speech" describing ACC's mission for potential new members.

New fundraiser: Gayle Kaplan described the new fundraiser, which will replace "Celebrate the Children." It will potentially be held on a weekend evening in October. The format is being considered, with a "raise the paddle" being an option, as are a couple of substantial raffle or auction items. The attendance goal is 200, comprised of half ACC members. The ticket price will likely be similar to that for last year's Gala. The new fundraiser can act as a recruiting tool for new members/circles. The target fundraising goal is \$50,000. Gayle asked that board members raise the issue of sponsorships at their next circle meeting.

Advocacy: Mary Lou Wickwire reported that the holiday gift shop at Pregnancy & Parenting Support at St. Edward's was well attended, with 151 families including 403 children. There were many donated bikes this year. Mary Lou said there is no need for new layettes for the next few months but that carseats – especially combination carseats that accommodate growing kids – are always needed. The diaper room at PPS is currently full.

Youth Tutoring Breakfast: This inspirational annual event will be held on March 8th at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center. There is no charge for the breakfast but attendees are encouraged to donate to YTP.

CIRCLE EVENTS

Katie McKay circle's Magnolia Home Tour: This year the tour grossed \$24,600, netting \$24,283 after payment of credit card charges. For the next tour, Deirdre proposed providing simple marketing at each home to highlight some of the organizations supported by ACC. Another suggestion was to seek a sponsor for each home. Yet another suggestion was to look into having a local restaurant host a post-tour champagne brunch in conjunction with the tour. MaryLou noted that the Seattle Times publishes an article in its Pacific Northwest magazine in the month before the home tour, which is wonderful free advertising.

St. Therese circle's Family Fun Bingo: This fun family night will be held on January 26, 2019 at 6pm in the St. Louise de Marillac Parish Hall in Bellevue. It was suggested that the St. Therese circle send an invitation to every ACC board member next year as we all want to support new ACC fundraisers.

Katherine Meloy circle's luncheon and fashion show: Will be held March 9th at the Washington Athletic Club with its fashion show featuring Eileen Fisher.

Fr. Mychal Judge circle's Cosmos for a Cause: Will be held March 14th at the Newport Hills Yacht Club in Bellevue.

Fr. Vogal circle's luncheon and fashion show: Will be held April 26th at St. Paul's Parish.

Maude Rogers circle's luncheon and fashion show: Will be held April 6th and will feature Chico's fashions. Tickets are \$50.

May luncheon: Marilyn Price sought suggestions for a speaker. Nancy O'Brien asked that circles pick up their raffle tickets ahead of time and return any unused tickets to her in person, as it's illegal to put raffle tickets in US mail.

Christmas gifts for children: Gayle Kaplan noted that Stephanie Read and Suzan Hruska coordinated an effort to provide lots of toys, clothes and books for children, including those at the Pregnancy and Parenting Support holiday boutique. In all, ACC circles contributed \$5,800 toward Christmas gifts for families at Spirit Village and PPS. Thank you notes from Spirit Village and some of the families were circulated.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 9:30am in the great room at CCS. Deirdre and Helen Santucci will provide snack and Anne Q will provide coffee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Read-Andersen
(Morning meeting secretary)