

ASSOCIATION FOR CATHOLIC CHILDHOOD

Minutes for September 12, 2018 ACC Board Meeting

President Patty Barnes called the meeting to order at 9:58 a.m. and offered an opening prayer. In attendance at our September meeting were Patty Barnes, Deirdre Brownlow, Nancy O'Brien, Stephanie Read, Anne Read-Andersen, Judy Schroeder, Gayle Kaplan, Mary Lou Wickwire, Tammy Savage, Linda Bowers, Judy McAteer, Mary Roddy, Kathy Kane, Pam O'Brien, Sue Lynch, Barbara Easter, Maria DeSouza, Helen Santucci, Lois Eason, Connie Fortier, Anne Quigg, Kristin Dittmeier (by phone) and Susanna Moore from Groopit.

MINUTES: May and June minutes were approved by voice vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Roddy provided financial statements and balance sheets for June-August. Endowment is at approximately \$1.13 million.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Groopit explanation: Anne Quigg is campaign chair for this initiative. Tammy Savage (former Microsoft executive and current company owner) explained her background. She described a three-pronged strategy to grow ACC participation and membership: 1) provide ways for busy people to be involved with ACC and feel connected by engaging with Groopit; 2) create the sense that something special is going on here at ACC, as communicated by multiple members from different circles. Members can put faces to names, making circle support more meaningful; 3) make sure the people who do the work of ACC feel supported, in part by online participation, including comments on other ACC members' posts. Groopit can help advertise ways that members can support each other's fundraisers. [Tammy's parish uses Groopit to organize parishioners to support fellow parishioners in need.] Sharing moments that happen is the foundation to make this platform work for ACC. Board members and circle presidents are asked to get information out to each of our circles. ACC will send out a weekly summary of Groopit posts. Tammy suggested three action items: 1) at next circle meeting, get circle members on board; 2) share with our circles the importance of support; 3) post at least one time between now and the next board meeting. Tammy, Susanna and Anne Quigg are available to problem solve and answer questions. It was suggested that members add profile pictures so we can put names to faces.

Membership: Kathy Kane has prepared a welcome packet which others can use to recruit new members or to create new circles. Judy Schroeder suggested reducing or eliminating the \$25 annual membership fee for new members so that is not a hurdle to joining.

Endowment committee: Patty reported that Theresa Gallant will be stepping down as the longtime chair after the November meeting at her house. It was suggested that a chair may not be needed for this committee.

Memorial Mass: Date is November 7th 2018 at 11:00am at Our Lady of Fatima, with lunch immediately afterward. Pam O'Brien is the contact person for the Mass.

Van tour: ACC board members and circle leaders are invited to take a van tour of three charities which receive ACC grants: Sacred Heart Shelter, Pregnancy and Parenting Support, and Youth Tutoring. The first date offered will be on October 24th 2018 at 2pm. A sign-up sheet was circulated at the meeting and all spots in the van were filled. Another outing will be planned in the near future.

Labor of Love: Our annual online auction will be held from February 16-25th 2019. Board members are asked to discuss possible donations within their circles, focusing on increasing amount and quality of donations. Gift cards generally went for over value and experiences such as theater tickets, dinners, and parties are popular items. Often there are reduced-rate gift card opportunities starting Black Friday. The board discussed the need to increase the number and diversity of bidders, so not just ACC members are bidding on LOL items.

New fundraiser: In the wake of a highly successful Gala celebration, Erin Manca is planning a new social event, designed in part to recruit new circle members. It will be an evening event and will be in addition to the Celebrate the Children in fall 2019.

ACC books: "For the Least of These" – a history of ACC from its inception – is available for free distribution to interested people.

COMMITTEE AND CIRCLE BUSINESS

Advocacy: Mary Lou Wickwire encouraged ACC members to sign up with the Children's Alliance to learn more about children's issues being considered at the state government level, particularly when the legislature is not in session (like now).

Layettes: Pregnancy support asks that donors provide a sturdy diaper bag with their layettes. St. Bridget Circle does 18-20 layettes annually at a circle meeting (comment noted to correct amount: St. Bridget does more like 12-16 layettes every year). Circles can donate a car seat instead, or can provide just diaper bags.

Fr. Thomas Lane: Judy Schroeder said her circle will hold a Bunco party on Nov. 4th 2018. The circle's next Bunco party will be held in April 2019. Wine will be provided with an ice cream social afterward.

Frances Hoffman & Katherine Meloy Circles: Stephanie explained the tulip/daffodil bulb sale, which the two circles are taking over from the Irene Hanley circle.

St. Bridget Circle: A new candle fundraiser is being developed; more information to be provided.

Katie McKay: Magnolia Tour of Homes will be held the first Saturday in December.

NEW BUSINESS:

May luncheon: Will be held Thursday, May 9th at Sand Point Country Club. Note that the luncheon is not on a Wednesday this year.

Alternative bazaar: Judy McAteer noted that an "alternative bazaar" is held annually at St. Joe's Parish. The bazaar provides a forum for selling products that benefit charities. For a small fee, folks can rent a

booth to sell circle items like candles, flower bulbs, etc. The bazaar is usually held on a Sunday morning before Thanksgiving; date to be disseminated later.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, Oct. 11th at 7:30pm at Assumption Church (St. Joseph Room). Guest speaker will be Eric Green, LPL Financial endowment fund manager.

Meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

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

Please view Endowment chart on page four *submitted by Christy Higgins

