

## **ADVOCACY AND CARING FOR CHILDREN**

### **Minutes for November 14, 2018 ACC Board Meeting**

President Patty Barnes called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and Deirdre Brownlow offered an opening prayer. In attendance were (19) members; Patty Barnes, Deirdre Brownlow, Erin Manca, Marilyn Price, Maureen Britt, Anna Popovich, Judy Schroeder, Nancy O'Brien, Stephanie Read, Anne Read-Andersen, Gayle Kaplan, Mary Lou Wickwire, Mary Roddy, Kathy Kane, Helen Santucci, Lois Eason, Connie Fortier, Anne Quigg, and Kristen Dittmaier.

**MINUTES:** October minutes were approved by voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mary Roddy provided financial statements and balance sheets for October. Endowment is at approximately \$975,00 (slightly lower due to market conditions).

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

**Leadership:** Many thanks to Helen Santucci who has stepped into the role of First Vice President and will be the next president of ACC.

**Agency tour:** A group of board members visited a few grant recipient agencies on October 24, 2018. The agencies included Pregnancy Support, Youth Tutoring and Sacred Heart Shelter on Queen Anne. The next tour is tentatively scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 at 2:30 p.m. There is space for board members or circle members on the tour. Kathy Kane suggested that circle members be encouraged to also visit programs supported by ACC grants, which might spark interest in volunteering at those agencies. It was noted that six to ten visitors at a time is ideal so as not to disrupt the agencies' work.

**Endowment gift thresholds:** Patty reported that endowment gifts of \$100 or more will be acknowledged with a physical letter, while smaller gifts will receive an email version of the letter to save on administrative costs.

**Groopit:** Board members are asked to encourage fellow circle members to continue signing up for and posting on GroopIt. Anne Quigg is happy to attend circle meetings to explain this platform and can be reached at [annedonovanquigg@gmail.com](mailto:annedonovanquigg@gmail.com).

**Meeting date change:** Patty proposed switching from Wednesday meetings to Thursday meetings for 2019. Most or all board members can make this work so a new meeting schedule will be forthcoming.

**Focus on increasing membership and grant funding:** Patty has set a goal of increasing membership by 35 new members in fiscal year 2019 along with increasing fundraising by \$120,000 (a 35% increase).

**New event task force:** Erin Manca outlined the idea behind a new ACC-wide fundraiser. It will be an annual event that will bring in a wider circle of donors than just ACC members. Half the proceeds would go toward the endowment and half to operating expenses, including grant funding. Theresa Gallant,

Mary Welch, Judy Schroeder, Anne Quigg and Erin developed the idea and the task force includes Patty Barnes, Erin Manca, Tara Demick O'Connor, Kristen Dittmaier, Gayle Kaplan, Tammy Savage, Deirdre Brownlow, and Helen Santucci. As new circles are recruited, they may not need to develop new fundraisers of their own but could help plan this new fundraiser. The fundraiser will probably be held in September but details are still being developed. Ideas for extending ACC's donor pool were discussed. Kathy Kane noted that her St. Bridget Circle hosts a Christmas dinner for their friends. At the dinner the circle provides information about ACC, and last year asked for a \$25/plate donation toward the endowment. Kristen Dittmaier's circle hosted a "Cakewalk for a Cause" in past years. Their Circle chose not to continue this fundraiser because it took a large group to organize, and the same circle members did the work each year (but it was a great fundraiser). The intent of the new event in no way is suggested to replace on-going Circle fundraising efforts, rather, build on new donors, new Circle and sponsorship. It was suggested that our new ACC-wide fundraiser be less labor-intensive but just as fun.

#### **COMMITTEE AND CIRCLE BUSINESS:**

**Advocacy:** Mary Lou Wickwire said The Children's Alliance is having its annual meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 11 a.m. There will be speakers who have benefited from advocacy by Children's Alliance, as well as legislators from Olympia to report on specific pieces of legislation. The new legislative session opens January 14, 2019. Contact [marylou@jwickwire.com](mailto:marylou@jwickwire.com) if you'd like to attend.

**Celebration Memorial Mass:** The Memorial Mass and luncheon were held November 7<sup>th</sup> 2018 at Our Lady of Fatima. The Mass and music were beautiful. Fr. Hagelin referred to ACC multiple times and clearly understood our mission, especially since his mom is in the Katherine Meloy circle.

**Historian:** Patty reported that Sue Lynch will submit excerpts from "For the Least of These" for inclusion in the ACC newsletter.

**Membership:** Anne Quigg is getting up to speed on ACC's historical background, finding out which parishes already have circles and which might have room for a second. Anne said she is seeking leads about current members' daughters, etc. to start new circles. It was suggested that we cultivate circles in Tacoma since some of our grant recipients are there. Apparently there were circles based in Tacoma at one time but none still exist.

**Magnolia Holiday Home Tour:** Helen Santucci said that circle members and the general public can purchase tickets online ahead of time, which is \$5 less than at the door. The link is [www.magnoliahometour.org](http://www.magnoliahometour.org) and is also available on ACC's website. Volunteers can also sign up for a shift at one of the homes online. In the past, 800-1,000 people have gone on the home tour.

**New Brochure:** Marilyn Price revealed the new and fabulous ACC brochure: it is a color tri-fold, designed to fit in normal-size envelopes. The brochures should be printed and available for the Magnolia Holiday Home Tour.

**Layette/car seats:** Maureen Britt reported that Pregnancy Support has lots of layettes right now so her circle will delay putting them together until needed. Circles which have signed up for layettes should

check with Mary Lou Wickwire before creating layettes, since Pregnancy Support might need donations of large size diapers and wipes or car seats instead.

**Circle By-Laws:** Patty circulated a draft of recently-revised circle by-laws to replace those now in place. Circle chairs are asked to effect the changes by December 30, 2018.

**Labor of Love:** Circle members are encouraged to shop Christmas sales for potential donations to the February 16-25 online auction. Deirdre noted that getaway weekends are big ticket items for other online auctions, as are tickets to post-March musicals and other performances. Retailers often discount gift cards leading up to Christmas. Deirdre would appreciate it if one person from each circle could do data entry for their circle donations: then Deirdre or Gayle can train specific people. Repeat donations from last year can just be emailed to Deirdre. Members can also submit hard copy donations if necessary. Gift certificates always sell well.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Fall grants:** Eleven programs received fall grants totaling \$68,500. None of the grant requests could be funded at 100% but ACC should be proud of the hard work by its members that raised funds to aid women and children in need.

**May luncheon:** Will be held Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at Sand Point Country Club. Note that the luncheon is on a Thursday, not Wednesday, this year. Marilyn Price invites suggestions for a dynamic speaker, hopefully a recipient of services from one of the agencies supported by ACC or a representative of one of those charitable organizations.

**Additional fundraiser:** Lilly Peabody circle will benefit from a one-day Potluck Press sale on December 1, 2018, 9 a.m. through noon. Sale is at 929 S. Bay View Street in Seattle, just prior to the Tour of Homes. Lots of good gift ideas and 20% of the proceeds remit to ACC.

**Meals for homeless shelters:** Deirdre is willing to coordinate a monthly or so meal donation to a CCS-supported program if circles are interested in hands-on service opportunities.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019 at 9:30am in the great room at CCS.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

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