

MFebruary 14, 2024  
Des Moines Women's Club Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**Called to Order** at 10:04

**Roll Call:**

Present: Sherry Wilkinson, Janice Cord, Mary Ellen Imlau, Lubertha McClairen, Liz Teufel, Martha Stephenson, Alicia Amberg, Karen Sievers, Rose Marie Webb, Toni Van Cleve (Parliamentarian), Eileen Boggess (Club Coordinator) Lorna Truck (guest), Marlene Anderson (guest)

**Approval of Minutes** of January 17, 2024. Approved as written.

**Guest Speaker, Marlene Anderson, Chair of the Social Committee**

presented a report on member participation in Club Social Committee sponsored events. Seventy-four members have signed up for one or more activities and several guests have also attended. Sixteen of the attendees are people who have joined the Club in or since 2022. This is an *ad hoc* committee, there was discussion of making it a standing committee.

**Guest Speaker, Lorna Truck, Chair of the Finance Committee**

brought recommendations and proposed motions to the board from the *ad hoc* Scholarship Review Committee and the DMWC Finance Committee. The following actions were taken: Moved that Drama, Music, Performing Arts, and Art scholarships for high school applicants be open to all applicants who demonstrate a commitment to performance or visual art during their high school career. Motion passed.

Moved that the Drama scholarship funding be moved from the General Scholarship Fund to the O'Braza Endowment Fund. The Drama Scholarship Committee will be merged with the Schwartz Scholarships Committee which will handle the administration of three Scholarships: High School Performance (Music or Dance), College Performance (Music or Dance), and High School Drama. Motion passed.

Moved that up to 4% of Studebaker fund investments be spent annually for Opening Day and May Day programs as well as other programs throughout the year as determined by the Program Committee. Discussion followed including the importance of funding the opening and closing day programs before using Studebaker money to subsidize other programs. Motion passed.

**President's Report:**

Sherry Wilkinson reported that she attended the Hoyt Sherman Place Foundation meeting last week and is taking steps to increase cooperation between that group and the DMWC. One member of HSPF has joined DMWC, another recommended a recipient of the Women Who Make a Difference Award. The next recipient of the award will be Maggie Crab. The Art Exhibition and Scholarship Committees are busy getting ready for their events. Sixty people have signed up to attend the lecture by Liz Cheney at Drake.

**President-elect's Report:**

Mary Ellen Imlau passed out a summary of the number of programs presented each year since 2014-2015 and a "Proposed 2024-2025 DMWC Meeting Schedule." The schedule starts with Opening Day on August 21 and has lunch meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month through May. The Bylaws state that the lunch meetings shall be held beginning in October. It was moved and seconded that the Board suspend Article 4, Section 1, of the Bylaws to allow lunch meetings for Club year 2024-2025 to begin in September instead of October. Discussion of the schedule change included new members being disinclined to join because of a weekly time commitment and concerns about members who want more meetings so they get value from their dues. It was determined that members' input was needed, so information about the proposed schedule will be sent out in the BLAST this week and time will be available for members to discuss the change after the afternoon program next Wednesday. The motion was tabled.

**Past President's Report:**

Nothing to report

**Decorating/History Director's Report:**

Martha Stephenson said that the Archive Committee is working on a new document retention policy.

**Membership Director's Report:**

Rose Marie Webb announced that there will be a drawing for prizes in March for those who bring a prospective new member to lunch.

**Secretary's Report:**

Liz Teufel said that two cards were sent by Laura Payne this month, to Agatha Norton whose partner passed away and to Lorna Truck who received an award from Des Moines for development of a Woodland Cemetery tour focused on pioneer women. She also presented "Leadership Positions—Who Appoints Whom?" This chart clarifies the new systems of appointing leadership positions and is based on the Handbook, the Bylaws, and the organizational chart prepared last year after reorganization. Board members were asked to look over the information carefully and be prepared to make suggestions for any changes at the meeting next month.

**Club Coordinator's Report:**

Eileen Boggess gave updates on the number of applicants received for each scholarship. There are a total of 161 applications, ranging from two each for the Theater, Riddell, and Schwartz College scholarships to fifty-eight for the O'Braza STEM scholarships. Seventy-six artists have registered for the Art Exhibition.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Lubertha McClairn will meet with our investment advisor, Tammie Schroeder next week to discuss the CDs maturing soon.

She has taken the following actions during the last month:

Studebaker Fund: Changed \$2,504.72 from 1%, regular saving interest to Money Market interest 5.4%, 1/30/2024.

General Scholarship Fund: CD \$8,000 matured 1/30/2024. Put into CD \$8,000 six months at 5%, matures 7/30/2024.

General Unrestricted Fund: \$16,599.09 in Money Market account 12/31/23.

Put \$14,000 of \$16,599.09 into a 5-year 4.1% CD maturing 2/6/2029. \$2,500 left in 4.6% Money Market account to pay bills.

Open Memorial Scholarship Fund: \$8,000, 3.3% CD matured and reinvested into 4-year 4.15% CD maturing 2/7/2028.

Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund: \$2,446.14 was in 4.6% Money Market account. Put \$2,000 into a 6-month 5% CD maturing 8/09/2024.

Endowed Art Exhibit Fund: Moved \$1,209 cash from regular 1% savings to 5.4% Money Market interest.

### **Program Director's Report:**

Karen Sievers talked to Finance about the programming budget for the coming year.

Departments will be given their budgets in June and told to stay within the designated amount.

She suggests combining the Drama and Music Departments into a Performing Arts Department and giving them more money; they were delighted.

### **Governance Director's Report:**

Alicia Amberg reported that the Nominating Committee has met and has a slate of nominees to propose. Nomination forms will go out to members for additional suggestions.

The Internal Audit Committee has not yet met, she will be contacting the chair.

**Adjourned** at 11:50.

**Next meeting March 13, 2024.**