

## **Minutes of Des Moines Women's Club Board of Directors Meeting Held on October 12, 2022**

**Meeting called to order** by President Janice Cord at 9:31 a.m. in the Byers Room, Hoyt Sherman Place.

### **Roll Call:**

**Present:** Marlene Anderson, Janice Cord, Carol Corrigan, Pam Deeds, Chris Foss, Judith Frank, Mary Ellen Imlau, Carolyn Kuhn, Cindy Lane, Mary Madison, Jean O'Neill, Marti Puff, Karen Riley Sievers, Martha Stephenson, Rose Marie Webb, Sherry Wilkinson, Joann McCracken Young

**Non-voting:** Parliamentarian Toni Van Cleve, present; Club Coordinator Eileen Boggess present

**Minutes** of the September 2022 board meeting were approved with amendments to correct errors in year designations, spelling, and punctuation.

**President's Report:** Janice Cord appreciated a wonderful experience at the "Evening at the Clubhouse" event. She met a lot of new people, including new members. She reported attendance of 162 people at the Opening Day program and thanked Sherry Wilkinson, Chris Foss, and Eileen Boggess for their help with the reception.

**President-Elect:** Sherry Wilkinson reported that the task force on reorganization plans was making headway.

**Past President:** Chris Foss reported on the "Once Upon a Stage" program scheduled for March 29. Several of the performers' contracts are completed; some are still in process. We will have Grant Wood lithographs in the gallery on loan from the Des Moines Art Center and an "American Gothic" banner for photo opportunities.

Ticket prices have been set at \$75 for main-floor front, \$50 for main-floor rear, \$25 for the balcony, and \$1000 for sponsors (front balcony loge seats). The theater plans to announce the event on October 24, with advance sales available to Women's Club members one day before the standard presale date. The event will be promoted on social media thorough the holidays. Hopefully tickets will sell well without much spending on advertising, but ads will begin after Christmas if needed.

March 29 is also a Club meeting date. The committee planning the event will present information highlighting the art and club achievements during the morning program slot. In the afternoon, we will see part of a dress rehearsal for the event, probably with Ballet Des Moines. Featured artists are from the first 25 years of the theater, including Agnes De Mille, Grant Wood, Will Rogers, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Meredith Wilson, Vincent Price, and John Philip Sousa. Chris encouraged members to bring their friends.

The weekly Club email is similarly recognizing the anniversary with excerpts on events of 100 years paired with events occurring now.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marlene Anderson highlighted two items for review. The total 9/30 funds balance of \$1,941,417 reflects a notable decline in investment fund totals from one year ago, reflecting the stock market downturn in recent months. Marlene reminded board members that this total is considerably higher than the total two to three years ago and is not reason for concern.

Two certificates matured earlier this month. The finance committee will decide how and when to reinvest those monies. They expect interest rates to be substantially higher than the rates available last month. In the interim, monies from the matured certificates will remain in the cash portion of each fund.

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Marlene advised that members who receive financial records of the club should delete or shred them after the meeting when they are considered.

On behalf of the finance committee, Marti Puff reported that the external audit has begun. The club coordinator and the accountant have sent electronic records and the committee is pulling material from archives. There will be in-person review of selected items.

The committee intends to ask for review of the scholarship adherence procedures. Formation of the scholarship adherence committee was a major recommendation of the 2017 external audit, after an exhaustive review revealed inaccuracies in the use of scholarship funds in relation to the terms of the original donations.

Marlene underscored the importance of the internal audit committee. The Club has better financial control with the procedures implemented since the 2017 audit.

**Membership Vice President:** Karen Riley Sievers began with a point of personal privilege to recognize the reporting in the Des Moines Register on Club member and legislative candidate Mary Madison. She continued with the following the membership update:

The current membership is 158 (compared to 168 for the previous Club year). There are 19 new members, who can be recognized by their yellow name tags.

The membership committee's "Evening at the Clubhouse" event attracted 77 people, 40 members in addition to the six committee members and 31 guests, 23 of whom indicated interest in Club membership. Karen credited Marlene Anderson, Mary Sheldahl, Rose Marie Webb, Martha Benda, and Carol Corrigan, who had to take charge when Karen came down with COVID. Eileen Boggess quickly put together a brochure to give to interested people. It was suggested that specific dates for events should not go into a (future) brochure.

Karen estimated that about 100 members attended the Opening Day concert. (The event was designated "public" to make it part of the Theater's 100 anniversary events, and friends and family of the performers attended in addition to Club members' guests.)

The membership committee is planning a series of "DMWC 101" classes aimed at first-year and second-year members. These will take place at 10 a.m. before the morning Club meeting. The first is scheduled for October 26, with the topic "Club Basics." On November 16, Lorna Truck will present "137 Years and Counting" on the history of the Club, and on December 14, Rose Marie Webb will present on the on the Hoyt Sherman Place building.

In November, the committee is holding a membership campaign and hopes to give prizes to members who bring guests to a meeting.

**Fundraising:** Pam Deeds reported proceeds of \$10,447 from the annual fund drive (including Lorna and Fred Truck's matching funds). We made just \$23 on the fall Goode's Greenhouse plant sale. Goode's offered a mum sale option, but the Club doesn't start meeting early enough in the fall to make that workable. Poinsettia orders will be available starting October 15. Plants will be delivered November 30 and can be taken home after the meeting that day Nuts and candy sales are ongoing. The fundraising committee will have samples available for sale at meetings in November and December...

**Corresponding Secretary:** Joann McCracken Young reported sending get-well cards to Eileen Boggess, Rosemary Hillman, and Nellie Bobenhouse.

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**Club Coordinator:** Eileen Boggess recommended that members keep checking the Club's Web site, as that is where the most up-to-date information is available. She has posted the lunch menus through January, and members can pay in advance there to reserve luncheon spots. The Yearbook is out. Eileen invited Board members to take copies for members who weren't at Opening Day whom they might see outside of Club. The Scholarship checks for the 2022 awards winners have gone out. Applications for next year's scholarships are posted, and we already have a couple of applications.

**Art Exhibition:** Judith Frank invited Opening Day guest artist Chad Elliott to submit work to this year's Art Exhibition after he reported that his earlier interaction with the Women's Club was to apply for an art scholarship (which he didn't get). The art exhibition committee has identified five candidates as possible judges.

**New Business:** Joann McCracken Young noted that the Club's Opening Day event this year fell on Yom Kippur, the holiest day on the Jewish calendar and typically observed by fasting. She asked for the Club to exercise more cultural sensitivity to religious holidays. [Next year Yom Kippur will fall on September 25.]

President Janice Cord observed that recent Board meetings have been completed in around an hour and proposed that the starting time of Board meetings be moved to 10 a.m., since we no longer have 11 a.m. programs on the days that the Board meets. The Board accepted this proposal

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m. The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Ellen Imlau, Recording Secretary