

ASSOCIATION FOR CATHOLIC CHILDHOOD

Minutes for November 9, 2016 ACC Board Meeting

President Maureen Britt called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., followed by opening prayer offered by Theresa Gallant (author: Edwina Gabeley).

In attendance were Maureen Britt, Deirdre Brownlow, Theresa Gallant, Nancy O'Brien, Mary Roddy, Joan Walton, Lois Eason, Anne Read-Andersen, Marilyn Price, Mary Lou Wickwire, Gayle Kaplan, Helen Santucci, Judy Schroeder, Pat Freund, Kristy Charles, Angeleigh Gregorios.

MINUTES: Approved as presented for the October 12, 2016 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Roddy furnished a balance sheet and profit and loss sheet for October 2016. Mary reported there is approximately \$748,000 in the endowment fund.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Policy/advocacy: Deirdre was berated by one ACC member's spouse for **emailing Children's Alliance Organization's** recommendations for advocacy. In the future, ACC will send out links instead of substantive information so that members who receive the email can click on it or not. Any members who do not want to receive these emails can let Deirdre know and opt out of future ones.

Funding Review: Helen Santucci distributed a list of 2016 fall grant awards. \$116,000 was sought by organizations via grant requests; ACC was able to fund \$64,000 of requests. The grant review committee denied requests by new charities in favor of granting funds to organizations we already support. ACC fully funded three agencies' requests; seven other agency requests were partially funded. Individual board members will present checks in person to those organizations very soon, and will document the donations with photographs

Committee sign-ups: New committees are being formed to manage the name change transition, conduct the Labor of Love auction, and plan the 100-year anniversary celebration. Each of those committees require volunteers to accomplish their goals. Committees such as bylaws, advocacy and membership also need more participation from circle members. Please ask members of your circle to step up and volunteer to help.

Membership: Several suggestions were made as to how to encourage new circles to form as older circles age and pass on. Maureen suggested that there be a support team for new circles, which Kristy Charles agreed - from the personal experience of her own St. Therese circle - is critical. Maureen wants to review the requirements of membership to make sure ACC doesn't become an elite organization: lack of funds should not be a bar to participation. Deirdre suggested that we should develop a membership piece to attract and involve new members and circles (maybe a notice in a parish bulletin, etc.). Mary Roddy from Frances Hoffman circle explained that their circle is multi-generational, with members in their early 50s up to those in their late 70s. Younger members are still inviting new potential ACC members so their circle is essentially at full membership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advocacy: Mary Lou Wickwire reported that the annual meeting of the Children's Alliance will be held on Dec. 7th at 8:30a.m. Legislators will be invited to participate. The focus of this year's meeting is on early learning, children's dental health, and the establishment of a Children, Youth and Families agency to coordinate services and ensure that communities of color get their fair share of state revenue.

Endowment: Theresa Gallant reminded the board that the Christmas endowment appeal will be coming out soon. Theresa encouraged us to remind our circles to individually make annual contributions to the endowment. You can honor a friend, or send a check in memory of a loved one, and make an investment in the future. Handmade ornaments will commemorate the endowment gifts.

Membership: Joan Walton has prepared a packet which outlines the requirements for ACC membership and new ACC circles. Kristy Charles will review.

Hospitality: Gayle Kaplan has some open spots for volunteers to bring refreshments to board meetings. She noted that one box of coffee is usually sufficient and Starbucks charges \$12.95 per box. An alternative is to bring a Keurig or Nespresso maker with capsules.

Celebration Mass: Gayle reported that the Mass was very moving; it celebrated thirteen ACC members who died this past year. The lunch was delicious and it almost broke even, losing approximately \$170. ACC subsidized lunch for the priests. St. Catherine's school is unable to host the celebration lunch next year because of space conflicts so ACC is looking for another parish to host this event. St. Bridget's was suggested, since Villa students might be available to altar serve and to help at the luncheon. Our Lady of the Lake is another possibility.

Christmas Gift Giving: Deirdre distributed a document outlining the ACC Christmas Gift Program. She encouraged all ACC circles to participate in one or both suggested ways. It's especially helpful if a circle can buy and wrap the children's gifts rather than just purchasing gift cards: that way one person isn't burdened with all of the shopping and wrapping. Gifts should be delivered to Deirdre's office.

Holiday Tour of Homes: Joan Walton reported that her circle is looking for more volunteers to help hostess at the six homes on December 3rd. Maureen mentioned that more volunteers are also needed for the tea house. Circle members can contribute cookies, as well, to support the cause. Notices are being sent to parish bulletins to advertise the home tour.

Raffle Tickets for May Luncheon: Nancy O'Brien reported that she has sign-up sheets for ticket booklets (10 tickets per book) available. She is requesting Circle Chairs communicate with her regarding how many booklets their Circle would like to have. Deirdre mentioned this is a great fundraiser and we should consider selling tickets outside of our Circles too. More information in the upcoming ACC newsletter.

CIRCLE EVENTS AND PROJECT UPDATES: Visit www.forthchildrenww.org for more info

Raffle tickets: This is a painless way to raise funds and broadens the scope of fundraising beyond ACC members. Mary Roddy reminded the board of the cruise/raffle ticket option she suggested last spring. It's possible to net \$5,000 in raffle ticket sales. She suggested selling the cruise raffle tickets ahead of time and doing the drawing at the 100th anniversary gala.

Bake sale: Mary Roddy reported that her Frances Hoffman circle raised \$1304 from the circle bake sale at Assumption parish recently. Their circle also hosts a no-charge Christmas party at Assumption, with a dessert auction and gag/legitimate gifts. The party typically raises about \$4,000. Mary will forward an invitation to whoever might be interested in attending.

Bulbs: Mary Lou reported that the Irene Hanley circle has sold most of its bulbs but still has some Dutch Master bulbs available for purchase. They will be featured at the St. Joseph's parish alternative bazaar the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Poinsettia/wreath sales: Gayle Kaplan said the deadline for the poinsettia sale has passed but wreaths are still available. They can be picked up at St. Catherine's parish on Nov. 22nd (the Tuesday before Thanksgiving). Deliveries will be made to those purchasing \$250 or more in poinsettias and wreaths.

Paperwhite sales: Marilyn Price said paperwhite pre-order sales have been ongoing. The paperwhites can be picked up at St. Bridget's parish on Nov. 19.

Bunko party: Judy Schroeder noted that the Fr. Thomas Lane Circle will have a bunko party on Sunday, Nov. 20th at 2pm at St. Anthony's parish hall in Renton. All are invited.

OFFICE

Deirdre distributed a flyer on the Fred Meyer loyalty program flyer and will also email a copy to circle chairs for distribution. Each year, ACC members will now need to re-enroll in this rewards program to have a portion of their purchases donated back to ACC. ACC raised \$61 July - October 2016 via these loyalty programs. The SMILE program on Amazon is another easy way to automatically donate to ACC with every Amazon purchase. Deirdre asked all board members to remind circle chairs to distribute this information to members.

Circle dues should be sent to Deirdre by the end of November. Deirdre will compare dues received to each circle's membership roster, since each ACC member is supposed to contribute \$15 annually whether active and or inactive.

Newsletter submissions must be received by Deirdre by Friday, November 11th.

Mary Lou noted that Pregnancy Support received a huge diaper from St. Luke's recently so they are fully replenished. Diaper bags are in great demand and carseats are always welcome as well.

Thanks to Deirdre Brownlow, Theresa Gallant and Gayle Kaplan for hospitality this morning.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Read-Andersen

(Morning meeting secretary)