

ASSOCIATION FOR CATHOLIC CHILDHOOD

Minutes for September 14, 2016 ACC Board Meeting

President Maureen Britt called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., followed by the opening prayer, also offered by Maureen. Circle Chair and Treasurer packets, along with calendars were available for pick-up. In attendance were Maureen Britt, Mary Roddy, Anne Read-Andersen, Mary Lou Wickwire, Joan Walton, Gayle Kaplan, Theresa Gallant, Helen Santucci, Barbara Easter, Marilyn Price, Nancy O'Brien, Deirdre Brownlow, Catey Hagelin, Angeleigh Gregorios, Kristy Charles, Lois Eason, Mary Gurry, Judy McAteer and Erika Michels.

MINUTES: Approved as presented for the June 16, 2016 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mary Roddy, Association Treasurer, furnished P&L's and balance sheets for June 1 through August 31, 2016. A Comparative Circle report for 2010-2016 and an Annual Circle report for 2015-2016 were also circulated.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Labor of Love: A committee is needed to organize the online auction so that Deirdre is no longer the point person. The auction will run from Feb. 18-25, 2017. In particular, volunteers for procurement are needed because procurement should start well before the end of the year, while organizations' budgets still have room for donations. Volunteers are also being sought for data entry (they can use much of the same information and photos for items donated in prior years). Deirdre Brownlow offered to print receipts and Barbara Easter gamely volunteered to ship items as she did last year. We will also need volunteers to help deliver local items after the auction. Publicity is very important too: we need to have more bidders from outside our circles to make the auction successful.

Name change: Maureen Britt, Marilyn Price (committee chair) and Deirdre will count ballots regarding our organization's name change after today's (September 14th) meeting, then, will wait until after the voting deadline expires to count any new ballots received. Results will be published in the ACC newsletter.

ACC's 100th anniversary in 2018: Plans are underway for this celebration.

Association dues: Current Association dues are \$15 per member, and have been for some time. Deirdre reported that \$5,265 in dues were collected last year at the \$15 per member rate. Different circles have varying additional dues, with some at \$35 and others over \$100. There was discussion as to whether dues should be increased to \$25 per member starting next year (2017-18). Slightly higher dues would help continue to cover some ACC operating expenses, which in turn would allow more profit from circle fundraisers to go directly to our grant recipients. (Recently, appx. 8% of funds raised by ACC went toward operating costs, which is an excellent percentage.) There are currently about 350 members, all of whom are dues-paying (whether active or inactive status). Marilyn Price moved to raise dues to \$25/member annually starting July 2017, and the motion was seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Calendar sales: It was noted that there is no requirement in the ACC by-laws that circles purchase a certain number of – or any – calendars. Deirdre believes the income from calendar sales was about \$4,100 last fiscal year. There has been an historical expectation that each ACC member will buy (or pay for) 3 calendars. Maureen noted that this expectation should be discussed and clarified in the by-law review scheduled for this year.

Layettes: Deirdre thanked the circles which have contributed so many full, useful layettes to Pregnancy Support. Mary Lou Wickwire noted that Pregnancy Support moms often prefer a real diaper bag or a car seat to a complete layette, since they can choose clothing at the Pregnancy Support office. Deirdre emphasized that Pregnancy Support does need several newborn car seats each year. One of the circles has already contributed a car seat for this fall, along with several cases of newborn – size 3 diapers and wipes. Pregnancy Support currently needs sizes 4 and 5 diapers (larger sizes).

Grant checks: Maureen suggested that we should make an event out of the presentation of a check to a grantee. Photos should be taken to commemorate the donation, in part to raise awareness of ACC's charitable mission. On the same note, the advocacy committee (and mainly Mary Lou Wickwire) attends numerous fundraisers by our ACC grantees, including the Youth Tutoring breakfast and CASA fundraiser. This helps raise awareness of the impact of ACC's donations. Maureen suggested that others should share in the duty to help raise ACC's profile.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Advocacy: See above regarding presentation of check grants. Also mentioned was [Childrensalliance.org](http://www.childrensalliance.org) and a brief discussion about how they make it easy to advocate via their emails – and members were encouraged to sign up for the emails.

Endowment: Theresa Gallant noted that circle chairs are receiving enough endowment donation "white" envelopes for each of their circle members. She encouraged all ACC members to make donations directly to the

endowment fund so it continues to grow. Joanne Schumacher's generous bequest last winter brought our endowment total to about \$741,000. It was suggested that an endowment gift could be made in the name of a friend or relative to acknowledge a birth, death, anniversary, etc.

Nominating committee: The committee is recruiting for vacant executive board positions, including first and second vice presidents, to ensure a smooth leadership transition when necessary.

Membership: Joan Walton proposed codifying the expectations of individual circles so that new circles will have concrete guidelines as they are formed.

Hospitality: Gayle Kaplan circulated a sign-up sheet for refreshments and prayers at meetings. She will send reminder emails to those who volunteered.

Historian: Maureen will coordinate with our ACC historian, Sue Lynch, as plans develop for celebrating ACC's 100th anniversary.

Celebration Mass: ****Office staff edit of date to avoid confusion**** Mass will be held November 1st at St. Catherine's, and Gayle Kaplan's circle agreed to host it again. Fr. Mark will be contacted to be the celebrant this year. Circle presidents should inform Gayle of the names of deceased circle members to be celebrated at Mass. Family members will be invited, as are all ACC circle members. Luncheon afterward will cost \$20 per person. Each circle should send one check for all members attending the lunch.

Tour of homes: The biennial tour will be held on Dec. 3rd this year, from 10a.m. to 4p.m. Joan Walton of Katherine Meloy circle reported that the tour has been held for about 25 years (though it's become an every-other-year event recently). Six homes are on the tour this year. Tickets are \$25 apiece if purchased ahead. (Or \$26 if purchased online ahead of time; \$30 at the door, at Our Lady of Fatima social center.) Boutique hours will be 9:30a.m.-4:00p.m., with Mass celebrated beforehand. The tour is seeking volunteers to serve as hostesses at tour homes, in two-hour shifts. No cellphone photos are allowed on the tours for liability reasons. Executive board members are each asked to contribute six dozen cookies to Tea House, at the boutique, for the event. (Maureen noted that she can keep frozen cookies at her home if board members want to bake ahead.) There will be twenty vendors at the boutique, with great shopping.

Office: Deirdre thanks all the circles for donations from May through the summer and will highlight them in the upcoming newsletter. The layettes were beautiful and two huge cartloads of school supplies were donated to the Youth Tutoring Program. Some circles bought them through Amazon, through which ACC receives a small donation with each purchase. Deirdre is in the office most Mondays and Wednesdays from 10a.m. through 2:00 or 3:00p.m. to accept donations. Donations brought in outside those hours can be left with the front desk.

List of meeting dates and times for 2016-17:

- Oct. 12, 2016 (evening) at St. Bridget's - 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 9 in the Great Room at CCS (upstairs) - 9:30 a.m.
- Jan. 11, 2017 (most likely at CCS but possibly evening? - TBD)
- Feb. 8 in North Cafeteria at CCS (bring Labor of Love items) – 9:30 a.m.
- March 15 in North Cafeteria (distribute LOL items) – 9:30 a.m.
- April 12 (evening? - TBD)
- May 10 at Sand Point Country Club – annual luncheon meeting
- June (not scheduled) – executive board meeting

CIRCLE EVENTS:

The Irene Hanley Circle is offering a variety of tulip and daffodil bulbs (\$6/dozen for tulips; \$7/dozen for daffodils).

The St. Bridget Circle is selling paperwhites again. They are seeking payment up front so they can order a specific amount from the grower.

The St. Therese Circle fundraiser will be held on September 17th. "Cooking for a Cause" starts at 5p.m. at Winters House in Bellevue, on Bellevue Way. A variety of salads will be served, plus there will be a delicious chocolate dessert bar. There will be raffle baskets and cookbooks. Suggested donation for the evening is \$50 per person. A speaker on behalf of the New Bethlehem Center (a day center for the homeless on the eastside) will speak at around 6:30p.m.

Marjorie Ryan Circle: Gayle Kaplan believes her circle will be sponsoring the wreath sale again, and Fr. Thomas Lane Circle will be selling poinsettias.

Katie McKay circle will host a luncheon on October 8th at Broadmoor. More information available in the ACC newsletter and website.

Thanks to Gayle Kaplan from Marjorie Ryan Circle for hospitality this morning.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40a.m.

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