

Zonta Club of Billings

December Board Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2009

ATTENDING: Nancy Curriden, Shelley Hayes, Maribeth Haynes, Kathy Hildebrand, Joan Hughes, Lynette Kerbel, Donna Meehan, Jolene Rieck, Connie Sanders, Anne-Marie Wade

ABSENT: Deborah Brown

Anne-Marie Wade called the meeting to order at 12:01
Minutes from the November meeting were accepted as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Lynette Kerbel distributed a year to date treasurer's report (6/1/09 – 11/30/09), a Profit and Loss YTD comparison for September through November 2009 and a comparison of the Operating Budget to actual finances through November 30, 2009. The new reporting format was well received.

Lynette agreed to present the new financial policy for the Club to the Membership for a vote as a change to the Standing Rules and Bylaws of the Club.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT: Connie Sanders reported the Club received various newsletters and donation solicitations. The Club also received \$250 Trivia Night Sponsorship checks from Harper & Hilario and from Ragain, Christensen, Fulton & Filz, PLLC. Thank you notes were received from Tracy Manning-Egge and from Kimberly Cordova an aviation student and recipient of the Zonta Book Scholarship at Rocky Mountain College.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE REPORT: Joan Hughes reported the next Trivia Night Planning Committee meeting is 12/11/09 at noon. Trivia Night "save the date" cards are at Alphagraphics being printed (with no in-kind donation this year). They should go into the mail soon. Chili Night grossed \$180.72

Joan continued her efforts to bring Jessica Jackley, co-founder of microfinancer Kiva.org. to Billings in the spring of '10 as the keynote speaker for the Status of Women event. Joan and Shelley Hayes attended their first meeting seeking partnerships with other like minded non-profits in the area. There may be as many as three different events with Ms. Jackley.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: Anne-Marie Wade reported for Carmen Mangis. The Board reviewed membership nomination forms for Kim Garcia and Julie Dial. They were unanimously approved. Anne-Marie is working on an updated Membership Directory.

Carmen wanted the Board to discuss innovations for the annual Initiation/Installation Dinner. One possibility that could possibly be a less costly event for members is to eliminate the formal dinner and simply have "heavy appetizers" at the Petroleum Club along with possibly having someone from the Yellowstone Valley Brewing Co. come and give a presentation and have a beer tasting. It would be more like a party than a formal event. The relative merits of a cocktail party vs. a sit down dinner, the formality and ceremonial aspects of the proposed innovations were discussed with no definite resolution. However, there were Board members who definitely like the formality of the current arrangement.

SERVICE COMMITTEE REPORT: Connie Sanders reported the annual Global Village shopping night is December 7 from 5:00 – 7:00. Nancy Curriden noted she will be working on Saturday, December 5 and will credit sales made to Zontians to the Monday event if they are unable to attend on Monday evening. At tomorrow's business meeting, Connie will pass around a sign up sheet for food and beverage items for refreshments during the shopping night.

The Service Committee plans on continuing to offer members an opportunity to give to the children and parents of the Young Families Early Head Start program in Billings. This year, as always, they need

clothing and miscellaneous items for boys and girls from 4 weeks to 4X toddler size. New this year is a need for small household items for the high school aged parents who are living on their own. Traditionally the donations are brought by Zontians to the Christmas party and then delivered by Zontians to Young Families. This year, the Young Families Christmas party is Thursday, December 17 just one day after the Zonta party. Shelley Hayes and Joan Hughes volunteered to drop off the Zonta gifts at Young Families on the 17th. Connie will present to the Service Committee tomorrow the idea of donating the unused \$50 budget item (from the Halloween party that was not held) to assist Young Families with their holiday party.

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT: Donna Meehan reported there will be a meeting at 11:30 this Thursday, December 3 at Grains of Montana. The Committee is currently working on sponsoring another film festival. Committee representatives spoke with the US Attorney, Kurt Alme, regarding trafficking.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- The Club's Christmas party will be held on Wednesday, December 16 at Rocky Mountain College's Prescott Hall at 5:30 PM. The past presidents will provide the food and beverages and there will be the traditional (and optional) ornament exchange as Pat Jaffray reads The Night Before Christmas.
- The discussion on the Zonta Dues Scholarship Committee's work was linked with discussions regarding Tracy Manning-Egge's revelation that not all Zonta Clubs charge their member's local dues; rather, they use fund raising events to subsidize the Club's operations. Anne-Marie Wade did some quick calculations and said the Club would have to raise \$2900/year, at our current membership level, if we were to reduce total membership dues to \$100/year total. There was quite a bit of sentiment expressed about raising money from the public to offset our membership dues as disingenuous. Another more supported idea was to possibly split the dues payment schedule. \$101 for continuing members is due to Zonta International and District in May of each year. However, at the local Club level we have no such absolute deadline. Perhaps the \$68 in local Club dues could be paid in August before Club activities for the new Zonta Year begin in earnest. It was agreed more discussion is merited before bringing this issue to the membership for any sort of formal action.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Anne-Marie reported she has heard from Joyce Fry the advance lunch menu planning has been exhausted and choices for the new year must be made. Kathy Hillenbrand agreed to work on the menus with the McCormick Café and relay the information to Joyce.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- This month's featured member on the website is Michelle Lee.

CALENDAR

- December Business mtg: Noon, December 2, McCormick Café, 2419 Montana Ave. \$10 lunch
- Advocacy Committee brainstorming session: 11:30, December 3, Grains of Montana, 926 Grand Avenue
- Global Village Shopping Night: 5:00 – 7:00, December 7, 2720 3rd Avenue North
- Trivia Night Committee Chairs Meeting: Noon, December 11, 401 N. 31st St. (First Interstate Bank tower), basement dining area adjacent to Sidewalk Chives.
- Christmas Party (no December Program Meeting): 5:30, December 16, Rocky Mountain College Prescott Hall, 1511 Poly Drive

Anne-Marie Wade adjourned the meeting at 12:58 PM.