

Killingworth Women's Organization
Board Meeting

Date and Place: February 4, 2009 Andrea's Home

Attendees: Andrea Schull, Barb Rojas, Kelly Leach, Mary Francis Studzinski,
Michele Early, Kristen VanAlstine

Meeting started approximately 7:20PM

Old Business

Halloween Happenings Review

- ◆ Group commentary was that event was very successful. But some lamented on the lack of members donating items to the event which was very different from the past
- ◆ For future events, should we continue to go back to group planning our large events? However, this "annual" event has such good historical documentation; that it makes it very easy to proceed with the planning without the group's involvement.
- ◆ With fundraising efforts, we did make more money than required for this event's expenses.

New Business

Membership Responsibilities

- ◆ Reviewed by-laws to understand member responsibilities.
- ◆ Members should attend at least four meetings a year according to by-laws. Group has never enforced this rule or other rules.

Membership Drive

- ◆ Need to hold an informational meeting to push for new "active" members. Perhaps have each member invite six friends to attend the event.
 - Suggestion to work with new owners of the Country Squire as a possible location for this event.
- ◆ We continue to have members that do not actively participate with the group in meetings or at events. They pay dues, but not a real valuable addition to the group.
- ◆ Suggestion to let individuals continue on but in a diminished capacity – perhaps a booster position. Same fees for the year, but able to attend minimal meetings, social events, and minimum expectations to work at events.
- ◆ Perhaps start to advertise meetings in the Clinton Recorder, Killingworth Krier, and Killingworth today

Membership Pulse

- ◆ Board members suggested putting together a questionnaire for all members. We should even attempt to contact inactive members and former members. Need to get a feel for the group's future priorities. Kelly to work on creating the form.
- ◆ We need to figure out, if group would like to continue children's events or adult events. Last year 50/50 split focus.

- ◆ Are we attempting to do too much throughout the course of the year? With the same people volunteering over and over again for our events.
- ◆ There are many annual events such as the toy drive that are run by members without any need of group involvement.
- ◆ Suggestion to change general meeting format. Perhaps a ½ hour social time before the start of each meeting. Or perhaps play games within meeting in order to get to know other members.

Community Pulse (Killingworth Today)

- ◆ Suggestion after getting a poll from our members to also solicit information from the local community via Killingworth Today website.
- ◆ In order to increase responses, perhaps hold a contest with small prizes.

Group Priorities

- ◆ Suggestions from attendees on future events/functions:
 - Utilize helping hands or local churches to help individual families in town
 - Reading to seniors program
 - Battered women's program thru Connections
 - Green or recycling efforts

Nominating

- ◆ Suggestion to put together summary of all officer duties in order to solicit for next year's board positions.

Fundraiser Suggestions Next Year

- ◆ Sell organic coffee thru GFWC. \$6.50 per twelve ounces and a minimum order quantity of fifty. Group did not like idea of selling expensive coffee in this economy. Also not a hot ticket item for mother's day. Suggestion to create basket with coffee inside, but creates more work for the group.
- ◆ Kristen mentioned a fundraiser to sell gift certificates (like middle school). A portion of all the sales of the gift certificates would go to the KWO. Many, many vendors participate in program including large chain stores and grocery stores.
- ◆ Perhaps another Flair party

Website

- ◆ Need to look into updating website again
- ◆ Ideally like to have a login so members can access forms, old minutes, agendas, etc

Misc.

- ◆ Gena Murray making name badges for any members requiring them
- ◆ Distributed brochure from GFWC directed towards new members.
 - Group consensus that brochures not acceptable to distribute
- ◆ To more accurately track volunteer hours, suggestion to distribute volunteer hour sheet during meetings in order to get a snapshot of volunteer hours throughout the year
 - Group able to track volunteer hours from meetings thru attendance sheets and meeting minutes.
- ◆ Suggestion to add more details to the member listing such as husband's name, kids names and ages, occupation, hobbies, etc. Pertinent information so that members can see commonalities.

- ◆ Perhaps bring back social night events to improve group interaction. Suggestion for movie night again.
- ◆ Mary needs cotton fabric in order to create more comfort pillows. Mary also looking into scarves.
- ◆ Next meeting March 4 at 7:15PM at Andrea's home

Meeting Adjourned at 10:05PM

KWO Mission: *The KWO is a local group of philanthropic women volunteers dedicated to helping others in our town and to maintaining a network of women to build a stronger sense of community for ourselves and others.*