

Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2013

Sesame Inn, Brown's Lane

The business meeting opened at 5:00. Karen Ulrich read the inspiration, "Vitamin F", about the value of friends. Two guests were introduced: Joanne Ahlstrom, whom we hadn't seen in several years, brought her daughter, Karin Jackson; Faith Jack brought Shari McGill, a social studies teacher at Shaler Area High School.

Two corrections were made to the September minutes: Sue Phillips was in the photo pinning Kathy Fitzgerald, and Paulette Hemmings was added to the list of those who spoke of their volunteer experiences (at Heinz History Center). Minutes were approved as corrected.

Letters of resignation were received from Shirley Stevens and Janet Thompson.

Marg Foster read the treasurer's report, which shows a balance of \$4979.14—which is a bit deceiving because dues have to be paid to the state and international. The budget may have to be adjusted if we have fewer members. So far, 49 had paid dues.

Karen Klingman reported on membership and discussed doing a membership profile. She passed out a form to complete. Faith Jack asked whether former members have been re-invited to join the chapter. The idea was received favorably by those present.

Paulette Hemmings announced the December 7 meeting at Willow. The program will be presented by Darlene Farrell, using gingerbread and cookie cutters. There will be a \$10 and under "Pirate Grab Bag".

Deb McMullen read a thank you from the Backpack program for our donation. She announced that April 7 we will be filling Jared boxes for the Oncology Department at UPMC Children's Hospital. Be on the lookout for items to put in the boxes or to decorate them. The last newsletter contained further information about the age groups and item needed. Look for clearance sales, especially after the holidays. At the February meeting, we will support Room to Read, which funds schools in Asia and Africa.

President Barbara MacDonald asked for volunteers for Inspiration and raffle baskets for the rest of the year. A discussion about continuing the raffle baskets was begun. Some ideas included limiting the cost of the basket or bringing items at the beginning of the year to be placed in the baskets by the social committee each meeting. Discussion will continue.

After dinner, we continued the meeting. Phyllis Jenny reminded us that we need nominations for the next biennium by the February meeting.

Melody Hannegan won the raffle basket. 27 were present. Deb McMullen moved to close the meeting; Karen Klingman seconded. Motion carried.

Our speaker was Gretchen MacKay, travel and food writer for the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. Her presentation was titled "Culinary Tourism." She fielded questions after her talk and invited us to share restaurants/destinations where food is unique by e-mailing her at the newspaper. She promised to answer every message.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Ulrich, Recording Secretary