Executive Council Meeting
July 14, 2020
Zoom Conference Call at 1:00 PM

2020 Executive Council Members Present:

- President: Fran Giannuzzi
- Vice-President: Jan DiSantostefano
- Secretary: George Quartell
- Treasurer: Bob Giannuzzi
- Mistress of Ceremony: Fran Castellano
- Master of Ceremony: Bernard Castellano
- Trustees: Don Cimorelli, Joyce Moses, Brad Moses

2020 Members not present:

Jay Confalone, Margaret Confalone, Tony DiSantostefano (votes covered by Jan D.), Jack Giamportone, George Scalco

Order and Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order at 1:09 PM. Attendance was noted, and members were welcomed.

Prayer:

Prayer for guidance was given by Fran G.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the May 26, 2020, minutes were motioned for approval, seconded, and approved unanimously.
Updates and Old Business:

OSDIA Update:
Bob G. reported that nothing from OSDIA other than appeals to maintain Columbus Day and respect for Columbus’ statues. Fran G. reported that a letter to her from OSDIA stated that an extension to quarterly payments can be given for Lodges needing it. Fran wrote back thanking them by saying we’re fine.

Membership:
Bernard C. reported that we increased by one, resulting in one hundred members as reflected in his report sent to all Council members. There are new badges that members can order. Fran G. will send members a recap of this Council meeting and mention that the new badges can be ordered.

Scholarship:
Fran G. reported that Bob G. has mailed check with certificate to Anna Maria Cicero. Eligibility is limited to direct descendants of lodge members in good standing. Jan D. proposed that if there was only one applicant, the remaining money should be saved to be applied for a future year to cover the possibility of three awards. Joyce M. remarked that a great applicant should be considered, especially if they could use the money. Bob G. confirmed that the scholarship solicitation should only mention two awards, not stating that we’re prepared to provide three. Fran G. stated that an applicant’s review should include community service, such as volunteering for our Lodge events. Don C. stated that the Lodge has enough money to cover a third award, should it occur, rather than carry-over any award money not used in a given year. Don C. further stated that our membership may not be as it is now, thereby reducing our income from membership dues. Fran G. requested a vote on our awarding direct descendants of Lodge members, whether it’s two or three qualified applicants. Vote was taken and passed unanimously.
Financial:
Bob G. reported that national sent us a note saying they would give us more time for quarterly dues if needed. Bob reported the Lodge’s financials:
- $4,016.92 - Checking
- $1,034.26 - Savings
- $5,072.58 - CD
- $200.00 – Cash
Bob G. stated we are financially sound and we won’t need money from the CD anytime soon. Bob G. further reported that Nick V. has been removed and Jan D. added to the bank account. Jan D. now has a debit card and Bob G. will ensure she has some checks as well. Bob G. also reported that he filed form 990-N, indicating we are good for our 2019 tax return. Bob G. reminded us that we should do an audit, which is done annually, needing two members to go over the books with him. Fran G. pointed out that two Trustees are required, not just any member; Joyce M. volunteered herself and Brad M.

Insurance update from Erie regarding COVID-19:
Fran G. reported that an email was received by our agent, Jodie Petilli. Fran replied to the email, asking what happens if someone gets COVID-19 or there’s a COVID-19 exposure during an event. Jodie Petilli replied saying to consult with our attorney, which Fran G. states that we have, to give us the best first line of protection. Our general liability insurance would help cover legal expenses if we are sued. Further, Jodie said to be proactive for the Lodge by following NC COVID-19 guidelines. Fran G. also said that a waiver might be a good idea; Fran requested that from our National OSDIA attorney who’s working on it.

Website:
Bob G. reported that the May Council meeting minutes’ document has been uploaded. Everything else is up-to-date.
Good and Welfare:
Fran C. sent Joe Miracola a “Thinking of You” card. Fran G. reported that George Scalco’s wife has been moved downstairs since she’s having mobility issues and we should her something to know we’re thinking of her. Bob G. reported that Vinny Doria is having knee surgery and Fran G. reported that Giovanni Masucci is getting a heart catheterization, which may discover a surgical necessity.

Charity Committee Report:
Fran G. reported that Mary Muth submitted a report, upon which she has worked hard, and Bob G. will read it. We need to vote today. Also, she never got in touch with Chris Accola who signed up so she deleted him from List. Mary M. researched Read and Feed and Interfaith Food Shuttle; Don C. has researched ARC. Len Rattini was not asked to research ALS due to his not feeling well. Fran G. stated that members were solicited for other charities to be considered. She also expressed her feeling that one or two of the new ones should be added in.
- **Urban Ministries** can be ignored as ours was a one-time donation and **Raleigh Rescue Mission** can also be ignored as Giovanni Masucci will likely solicit members for donations in August for his Annual Backpack/School Supplies Drive, which has no bearing on us.
- Regarding the **Helen Wright Center** dinners, if their center had 80 or 90 people in residence, we wouldn’t be able to handle it with the group that’s been doing the cooking. Nick Verna said that the Helen Wright Center would allow us to work with another group, whether we provide three or four dinners next year, so that the burden wouldn’t be on us alone. Fran G. stated that she’d bring this up to the Council, but more of our members should be involved and not just the same group of folks that always “step up” to the task. Bob G. stated that $150 is budgeted for each dinner. Motion was made to continue providing meals to the Helen Wright Center, four for next year; motion was voted on, and passed unanimously.
• Fran G. stated that she wants to maintain the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation, which is an OSDIA charity, to which we donate the proceeds from our bocce tournament. Bob G. reminded us that $1,000 donation is a target amount. Motion made, voted, and passed unanimously to retain the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation as one of our charities.

• Fran G. stated that Family Promise is a shelter with twelve apartments that takes in people for a year to help them “get back on their feet” again. Fran also stated that we’ve been doing Christmas gift giving for nine years. We’d get a recommendation of two families and their wish lists from the social worker; Fran G. used to break up the list into needs and wants. This year, the Lodge contributed $150 because not all needs could be met; agreement was made last year that $150 or $200 be donated if the needs couldn’t be met. The Lodge pays for the dinner at the shelter, either Chick-fil-A or pizza, costing about $80 or $90; this is when the families each get to open one present and the rest come from Santa Claus. Fran said she doesn’t want this charity to eliminate others since we asked the members for suggestions. Fran G. asked the council’s opinion. Bob G. suggested we just pay for the dinner out of the Lodge’s general funds with a $150 cap. Bob G. also stated that the gifts shouldn’t come from the Lodge but volunteering members. Joyce M. asked if a cap could be put on the gifts, which she felt would be hard to do. Fran said that if the Lodge isn’t contributing to the gifts, it remains up to the members as to how much to spend on identified needs or wants. Fran G. also mentioned that Christmas time is difficult to spend additional money beyond members’ other contributions and the current working environment. Jan D. suggested that we focus on only one family rather than two. Joyce M. suggested choosing a family of five, a large family with children. Fran G. also suggested that we could have more members at the dinner to make it even more supportive. Bob G. said to keep this charity on our list and check with Nick Verna as the event timing gets closer to see what
makes sense. Stipulating that the Lodge will only pay for the dinner and the membership is to be solicited for gifts.

- Fran G. said that for the USO of North Carolina charity, we donate $200, which is used for their military family Christmas party. Bob G. added that this buys two tables for the event. Fran G. said that the lodge donates the cakes and runs the cake walk. She added that every year more people attend and bring cakes and everyone has fun. Motion made and approved unanimously to maintain our involvement with this charity.

- Fran G. reported that Mary Muth said that ALS has a large presence in the community.

- Don C. reported that he contacted ARC, but they have yet to respond. He mentioned that they have ongoing or one-time events. He also said their community involvement is more labor oriented, although monetary donations can be made as well. Don C. further stated that they may not have any events going on due to the COVID-19 guidelines.

- Fran G. stated that the Interfaith Food Shuttle is definitely active.

- Fran stated that we’d done a fundraiser before for with Cooley’s Anemia Foundation, which is also a national charity. We’re supporting a national charity via our Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism involvement; therefore, we are not adding this charity. Fran G. reported that Mary Muth said she would handle Read and Feed and Interfaith Food Shuttle if they are chosen to be additional charities. Fran G. also stated that Mary Muth asked if Don C. would handle ARC if that is chosen, to which Don C. agreed. Fran G. also reported that Mary Muth is looking for other people to help her. Don C. volunteered to help coordinate volunteers to help with our charities. Brad M. voiced a question -since we only have 100 members, would adding all these charities put too much of a strain on them? Fran G. stated that when the members are asked to volunteer, it seems that the same few people commit their time & energy; that’s why the membership was solicited for their choices of charities, expecting them to be near and dear to their heart. Fran G.
stated that she would like to advise the membership, through the newsletter or via email, that we are still keeping the charities we’ve had and we’re adding this/these other(s) to our list. Bob G. stated that we have not yet made a financial commitment to the additional charities, but if the ones handling them- Mary Muth & Don C. – see need, they should be free to solicit the membership directly for help. Fran G. stated the budgets for the charities:

- Helen Wright - $600 for 4 dinners or $150/dinner
- Doug Flutie – no budget; collected money from bocce tournament
- Family Promise - $150 for dinner, members provide costs of gifts
- USO - $200 donation
- Enough money left over from the $2,200 charity budget for the four additional charities per their need

The council approved unanimously to accept all eight charities.

**Culture Committee Report:**
Fran G. reported that Sherry Hicks has requested to join Committee. Fran G. also stated that she expects requests for Italian culture information/participation from the Lodge for International Day when schools start. The decision would be based upon the Governor’s position.

**Recap of Events:**
Fran G. reported that Nick Verna has requested help with the last Helen Wright dinner for 2020 on August 9th. Fran G. reported that $26.47 was spent for the June 14, 2020 Helen Wright dinner.
Upcoming Events:

August 2nd or 23rd, 2020 – Annual Picnic

Fran G. stated that even if the Governor opens things up further on July 17th, she thought it unwise to hold the picnic in August. She further stated that if things are looking good in September and Charlotte DiLeonardo wants us to come there, we could do a combined picnic and pot-luck in Charlotte’s backyard that can accommodate 70-80 people. Joyce M. suggested perhaps using a community venue such as Pullen Park. Fran G. stated that Margaret C. still can’t talk to the Town of Cary, who cancelled the picnic reservation and returned our check. Motion was made to cancel the picnic and possibly holding a September get-together voted for unanimously.

August 8th, 2020, Bocce Tournament:

Bob G. reported that the Clayton Community Park is closed, but there is no physical constraint for entry. Further, Bob G. contacted “the guy in charge,” who said it’d be okay to use the bocce courts “as long as you don’t get too big” and there will be a maintenance person on site. Fran G. expressed concern that if an injury occurs while we’re using a “closed” park, what happens. Bob G. said that we have insurance. Fran G. also expressed concern about the membership reaction to a cancelled picnic but a happening bocce tournament. There was much discussion about bathroom availability and Bob G. declined suggestions to pay for a Port-A-Potty. Joyce M. confirmed that the park’s restrooms are open per their web site and their guidelines said no gatherings of 25 or more people. Bob G. verified that masks will need to be worn by all persons at the event. Don C. said that this event seems less problematic, per COVID-19 guidelines, than the picnic/pot-luck that will potentially have a far greater number of people. George Q. expressed concern about people seeing the event happening while the park is officially closed. Jan D. made a motion to hold the event if Bob G. can confirm it will meet all the criteria; if all the criteria cannot be met, it should be cancelled. Fran G. stated that Mark LaMantia should be
consulted about the Lodge’s protection for this event, perhaps in the form of a waiver. Fran G. agree with Jan D.’s suggestion that we use an email vote on Jan’s motion until we hear the Governor’s position on July 17\textsuperscript{th}.

**August 9, 2020 – Helen Wright Dinner:**
Nick Verna had stated that this will be last one for 2020.

**September 5\textsuperscript{th}, 2020, Annual Fund-Raising Breakfast:**
Fran G. expressed concern about whether O’Charley’s can accommodate us with the COVID-19 guidelines. Bob G. reported that O’Charley’s has agreed to this date. O’Charley’s is paid $2.50 per person. Bob G. got the tickets printed from Charlotte.

**September 26\textsuperscript{th}, 2020, FESTA ITALIANA:**
Fran G. reported that this event HAS BEEN CANCELLED BY the City of Raleigh along with anything else happening up to October 31\textsuperscript{st}.

**October 11\textsuperscript{th}, 2020, Presentation of the NC Italian Person of the Year with Dinner:**
Fran G. reported that she told Dino that we probably wouldn’t be able to have a buffet, depending on guidelines in place, so it might be a sit-down dinner.

**December 6\textsuperscript{th}, 2020, Annual Christmas Party:**
Fran G. stated that Margaret C. has our reservation in at Casa Carbone for the Christmas party. Margaret C. reported that she has confirmed room and date.

**December 12\textsuperscript{th}, 2020, Tentative USO Party in the Hangar:**
Fran G. reported that she will send an email to Patricia DeZetter in September following our meeting.
New Business:

Sale of GOPLAYSAVES:
Fran G. requested a firm YES or NO as 2020 was a bust for the use of coupons. Will people buy? Fran G. expressed her opinion that, without holding the Festa Italiana, we should cancel these for 2021. Bob G. expressed two concerns: we should see the books before we cancel; and, we’ve realized $612 from the sale of these last year. Fran G. stated that the books would be the same as years before, minus Krogers, and this year is a different environment than last year. Bernard C. stated that he thought a new book would be half the size and that he understood that the existing book may be offered at half price. Motion made and unanimously approved to not sell the books. Don C. stated his belief that people buying these books don’t expect a return on their investment and perhaps they’d be willing to provide donations to our other causes. Fran G. stated that perhaps we could buy the books for sale at our movie night and also if Bernard C. gets a lot of requests for them.

FESTA ITALIANA:
Fran G. requested the Council’s decision as to whether TSDOI should get a refund for our $250 sponsorship or make donation for the two charities, Spare Some for Autism and MMIA. Bob G. stated that our goals are for culture and for charity and we’re helping the festa “stay afloat” for next year; the bulk of festa sponsorship monies will go to the two charities, which are also hurting. Fran G. stated that the 2021 festa committee will begin planning 2021’s event, which has been tentatively scheduled for September 25, 2021, pending approval by the City of Raleigh. Joyce M. asked why we wouldn’t add the two charities to be our charities? Bob G. stated that the $250 was taken from both the charities and culture budgets, but Joyce’s point is well taken. Fran G. reported that Nick Verna is updating the TSDOI Lodge brochure,
including cultural pictures. Motion made and unanimously approved to leave our $250 with the festa, destined for the two charities.

Next Meeting:
Fran G. suggested September 15th at 1PM to be held at the Giannuzzi’s.

Adjournment:
The meeting was adjourned at 2:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
George Quartell, Secretary
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