

CIRCLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2008

Members in Attendance: Rita Drapkin (President), Elissa Sachs-Kohen, Jane Abraham, Shira Kahan, Lisa Blatt, Andi Abrams, Leslie Salters, Joan Bornstein, Sara Marcus, Karen Gerton, Lisa Yarmis, Jay Kinney, Julie Little, Rebecca Stewart, Stephanie Grossman Veiss, Amy Corbman, Rachel Sanderoff, Genevieve Conway, Robbin Myerberg, Karen Levin, Reesa Pearlman, and Sandy Bodine

Nonmembers in Attendance: Alicia Berlin and Bobbie Miller

PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE MEETING, RITA DRAPKIN ANNOUNCED TWO OPEN BOARD POSITIONS – VP OF FUNDRAISING AND TREASURER.

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AND MINUTES FROM JUNE MEETING ACCEPTED AND APPROVED

II. TREASURER'S REPORT

Sara Marcus reviewed the report with the Board members.

III. CAMP UPDATE

--Alicia Berlin reported a successful summer, enhanced by a strong staff and team of counselors. Lisa Blatt noted that the new policy regarding unlimited CIT program enrollment that was instituted this year, puts camp in a strong staffing situation for next summer, with a large, enthusiastic new counselor base.

--Jane Abraham commended Leslie Salter for creative water solutions to an inaccessible pool for the early part of the summer.

--Andi Abrams commended the new ideas emanating from the Photography Department, including a "Candid Camera" addition to the program.

--The new Israeli Martial Arts Program was noted as a successful addition to this summer's programming, as was the addition of a N.Y.C. sightseeing/theater bus excursion, as reported by Bobbie Miller.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

REUNION

- Andi commended Jay Kinney (Reunion Programming Chair) for the excellent program, and remarked on the quality of the catering for this year's Reunion.
- Karen Levin reported that over 213 attendees (20 more than previous years) were expected.
- Stephanie Grossman Veiss informed the Board that the new tote bags had been selling very successfully online, however sales at the Reunion itself, were slow.
- Reesa Pearlman reported that scheduling for **next year's Reunion** was limited (due to holidays) to only one weekend : **SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2009**

MOTION -- ANDI ABRAMS MOVED THAT NEXT YEAR'S CIRCLE REUNION BE OPEN TO NON-CIRCLE MEMBERS. THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION – MARCIA KOLKO MOVED THAT A COMMITTEE BE FORMED TO STUDY THE PRICING STRUCTURE FOR FUTURE REUNIONS AND REPORT THEIR FINDINGS TO THE BOARD AT THE SPRING MEETING. THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Amy Corbman offered to Chair, with Ellen Weiss and Becky Gutin having already volunteered to sit on the committee. (Bobbie Miller will provide input.)

MEMBERSHIP

- Leslie SalterS stated that in an attempt to promote Camp Louise to the uninitiated, she was spreading the word in her area, especially in her synagogue, and encouraged other Board members to do the same.

- **History Day** - Lisa Blatt remarked on a very successful History Day up at camp this summer. She reported that this summer marked the 20th Anniversary of the modern day Color Games which were celebrated with History Day Water Games. She also remarked on the success of Alumni Story Telling. Rita requested that the date for future History Days be set in advance and promoted, so individuals interested in participating can plan accordingly. Alicia responded that the administration would do all they could to comply.
- **Louise Lighthouse** - Robbin Myerberg reported that 835 copies of the *Louise Lighthouse* were sent through the mail. Twenty-six recipients responded that they wanted to continue to receive their copy through the mail. She proposed however, and it was agreed, that we continue through the upcoming year to send the newsletter out via the mail, before switching over to an e-mail version. She also stated that so far, only one person has chosen to buy an advertisement in the *Louise Lighthouse*; Robbin will continue to promote this option in upcoming issues.

MOTION – RACHEL SANDEROFF MOVED THAT WHEN WE MAKE THE SWITCH TO AN E-MAILED NEWSLETTER, ONLY THOSE CIRCLE MEMBERS WHO HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS IN OUR DATABASE BE E-MAILED (BARRING NOTIFICATION OTHERWISE); THOSE WITHOUT AN E-MAIL ADDRESS SHOULD RECEIVE THEIR NEWSLETTER VIA MAIL. THE MOTION WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **Directory** - Speaking for absent Board member Henri Goettel. Rita said that Henri would continue to maintain the Membership Database (Directory), which currently has 1,100 entries.
- **Nominating** chair, Karen Gerton, oversaw the nominations and elections of the seven new Board members announced at the close of the Town Hall Meeting:

Joan Bornstein Genevieve Conway Amy Corbman Karen Gerton Rachel Gertz Shira Kahan
Lisa Yarmis

It was decided that in order to make the nominating process more efficient in the future, the names of the nominees be given to Rachel Sanderoff before the summer Board Meeting, for dissemination on the listserv so nominees would have notification. Those, and any subsequent nominees, can write up their bios and reasons for wanting to serve on the Board. These bios can then be projected on a movie screen during the Town Hall Meeting to expedite the nominees' presentations and the membership voting.

- **History Book** Coordinator Joan Bornstein announced that after all the material for the "book" is gathered, a decision can be made whether or not to have it formatted as a CD.
- **Tours** - of camp continue to be successful. Alicia stressed the need to have tour leader volunteers who are familiar with the current policies and practices of camp.
- **Open House** – Sandy Bodine reported the sixth successfully completed special project at Open House. There will be another Open House on September 28th from 1-4.
- **Volunteer Opportunities** –Alicia and Bobbie discussed the fact that volunteers are needed during the summer, with telephone duty being a high priority. It is important that volunteers recognize that the needs of the camp dictate what volunteers will be doing during their visit. It was requested that those interested contact Alicia or Bobbie during the off-season so they can be informed of volunteer procedures (e.g., fingerprinting/health screening).
- **Website** –Sanderoff announced she will be switching the server she uses; for now, all Circle announcements or ideas can be sent to her for uploading on the Circle website. Rita mentioned that a meeting took place earlier today to improve collaboration among the people who are involved with the data base (Henri, Robbin, Sanderoff and Karen). Information will be shared via email.

FUNDRAISING

- **Bake Sales** – The second half of the camp season proved especially profitable, Stephanie and Amy reported, with \$300 revenue as an all-time high.
- **Scholarship Fund** – Elissa stated that 10 individuals requested scholarship monies this season, probably due to the fund's higher profile. There is still money left in the fund.
- **Plaques** – Joan reported that sales on plaques are flat. Discussion ensued on the fundraising "bricks" and ways to make the display more aesthetically pleasing. Alicia volunteered to discuss possible improvements with Kip. Continued conversation on the matter was tabled for a subsequent meeting.

- **Mitzvah Cards** – Beth Bugnaski announced she would be stepping down from the Board. She also reported netting \$850 this year with sales of Mitzvah Cards. The members of the Board thanked her for her exceptional work.

V. NEW BUSINESS

ELECTIONS AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

- Joan nominated Amy Corbman as VP for Fundraising. The nomination was seconded and Amy was unanimously voted in.
 - With no nominations before the Board, Reesa Pearlman volunteered to be Treasurer.
 - Shira Kahan volunteered to Chair the Programming Committee for next year's Reunion.
 - Stephanie resigned her post as Parliamentarian and Lisa Blatt volunteered to take over.
 - Lisa Yarmis volunteered to take over the Mitzvah cards and to serve as a liaison with a playground builder/designer consultant.
 - It was agreed that in the future, all committee chairs send Robbin a recap of accomplishments for dissemination in the *Lighthouse*.

PINNING CEREMONY

Initial discussion began on this issue in the Town Hall Meeting. Tradition has been that Circle inductees be pinned by a Circle member from a previous year, but this tradition was questioned during the Town Hall Meeting. Due to a lack of time, a...

MOTION WAS MADE (AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY) THAT DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER BE TABLED FOR A FUTURE BOARD MEETING.

Missy Sachs-Kohen has begun work on a comprehensive pinning ceremony chart, which breaks down Circle inductees by their year, and the individuals who pinned them. The project is ongoing.

A MOTION WAS PASSED (UNANIMOUSLY) TO TABLE DISCUSSION ON PROPOSALS FOR AN ANNIVERSARY GIFT FOR CAMP AIRY UNTIL THE NEXT BOARD MEETING.

Rita stated that she would contact Board members in October to pick a date for the spring meeting.
MEETING ADJOURNED – 2:30 p.m.

Submitted by Marcia Kolko