

WOMEN OF OLG^C'S EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2020

Attendance: Jane Heishman, Beverly MacDonald, Marian Chirichella, Barb De Lisa, Georgene Wall, Suzanne Keating, Mary Pat Egan, Elvira Jakub, Joan O'Rourke, Betsy Argauer, Merle Senyk, Patty Donahue, Karen Ward, Anne Moran, and Alison Neville.

Call to Order: The Zoom meeting was called to order by President Jane Heishman at 7:03 p.m. Liturgy Chair Merle Senyk led us in the opening prayer.

September 2020 Board Minutes emailed to all Board Members in advance for review were moved for acceptance by Beverly MacDonald, seconded Barb De Lisa, and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Peggy Loudin submitted the proposed budget in the amount of \$4,500 to Fr. Matt for review on September 13, 2020; a response from Fr. Matt has not yet been received.

After scrutinizing last year's expenditures, the anticipated proposed budget of \$1,500.00 as stated at the meeting with Fr. Matt on August 21st increased to \$4,500.00. Depending on Fr. Matt's response, we may have to revisit our expenditures.

Thanks to the generosity of an **Anonymous Donor**, our treasury has \$2,000.00 in it right now.

Comment was made that if \$2,000.00 is currently in the treasury and not designated for any special purpose, should the proposed budget be reduced to \$2,500 and then be more in line with what was originally expected. Doing so would not leave any 'wiggle room' for unexpected expenses, however. Other ideas to reduce amount needed included:

- Perhaps remove the \$500.00 set aside for Power Packs, go with whatever food items are donated, and not purchase more food items from our treasury.
 - Sentiment was to wait until after the October Power Pack Drive to see if that's a good idea or not; would apply to the second Power Pack Drive.
- \$900.00 for SOME coolers also questioned as this is a parish activity and should probably not be our expense.
- \$350.00 budgeted for Sign-Up Genius was also discussed; see under New Business
- Do we have to have a balanced budget at all???

Action: Peggy will email Fr. Matt again to learn status of the proposed budget as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS

CHO/Food for Others Drive: The drive was a huge success! CHO and Food for Others were thrilled by the items, Gift Cards and Cash donations received; Cards and Cash exceeded \$19,000.00 (*\$16,000 from the Drive, \$3,000 from money in a parish account earmarked for CHO*).

NEW BUSINESS

Pastoral Council - September Meeting: President Jane reported that this is the first time the WOLGC President was not invited to participate in the Pastoral Council, yet the Leader of every other major parish organization was included. As the WOLGC does 90% of the work yet has no representation on the Council is a little strange.

Action: If not invited to the October meeting, Jane will inquire as to why she, as President, is not being included. It was noted that the Council is applying a new strategy: seeking ad hoc volunteer participation from parishioners rather than only parish organization Leaders.

Signup Genius: Irene Zaso, Director of Communications, questioned why the WOLGC budgeted \$350.00 for the Sign-Up Genius rather than joining the OLCG Sign-Up Genius. Reasons for maintaining our own account include:

- Multiple Administrators can get in and do whatever they want; others can monkey around with the account.
- Having a separate account is more efficient and has been working well for us.
- By going with a less expensive plan, the number of emails will also be cut back and perhaps not suffice.
- Barb De Lisa, Membership Chair, has special requests made by members noted in the file (*i.e. not Funeral Luncheons, only Lamb Center, no email, etc.*); therefore, easier for us to handle our own Sign-Up Genius.
- Creates additional work for Irene.
- The OLCG Sign-Up Genius ties into the general email account. Joining that account would send all inquiries to Barb not just WOLGC inquiries.

Action: Jane will convey the preference to keep our own Sign-Up Genius; it is more efficient to keep the accounts separate.

“Crop Walk”, an interfaith event, will be held this Sunday (October 4) with CHO as one of the beneficiaries. It is scheduled to be a virtual walk, but if changed to an in-person walk, prescribed social distancing will be adhered to.

- The school is already involved; some track members are participating.
- The WOLGC does not want to push another drive as we just did a major CHO drive. There will be no email blast sent by the Board. Those interested can visit the web site at www.crophungerwalk.org for pertinent information or to donate.

Action: Anne Moran will send the full web address to the Board.

“Power Pack” Drive is scheduled for **October 24 and 25**. Parishioners will receive the first notification in Friday’s Weekly Communication. Subsequent communications will include the list of items needed. On the Communication Request Form, an appeal was made to **NOT** cut out the list of food items needed from any communication.

Multiple Sign-Up Genius requests will go out after this month’s Lamb Center Breakfast and Lunch activities. *Note:*

- Food items in soft-side packets are preferred where possible – makes filling the 2-gallon bags easier,
- Volunteers will be needed as follows:
 - to receive the food items and bring into DeSales Hall like CHO/Food for Others Drive, (*early in the day*)
 - to put the individual packets together, (*later in the day*) and
 - to drive the packets to Food for Others on Monday morning, October 26th.
- The filled packets will be left in De Sales Hall overnight.
- NO deliveries to the church! NOTHING can be delivered before the scheduled dates!

The Power Packs Program falls under the Food for Others umbrella. It is anticipated that 80,000 packets will be needed this year to cover the food-insecure students who have little or no food to eat on the weekends. As schools are open on an extremely limited basis, distribution centers have been created to get these packets to those in need.

Action: Barb sending food list to the Board.

Thanksgiving Bake Sale: There will be **NO** bake sale this year; the concept of a virtual bake sale will be re-addressed next year as per Mary Pat Egan, Bake Sale Chair.

- The Bake Sale usually benefits from parishioners wanting to make an end-of-the-year donation for tax purposes. But as there are not many attending mass in-person, the effort to conduct the bake sale would far exceed the return.
- Too much effort for little return. And there is a restriction imposed on food made in private homes.

If it becomes difficult for the St. Vincent de Paul Society to fulfill the requests it receives, donations will be requested through another means such as a Bulletin announcement.

- Phone calls from those requesting assistance have decreased by 50%-60% compared to the start of Covid-19 pandemic. (*Conversely, The Lamb Center is seeing more people now.*)

Christmas Giving Tree: Mary Pat also addressed this project. Like food drives, a Sign-Up Genius will go out listing the gifts needed. As always, the tree will be displayed in the narthex but with requests for gift cards ONLY. The number of organizations represented are being cut back, focusing more on the immediate neighboring areas. **The Drive-By approach will be used to drop off gifts on December 12 & 13.**

- **December 19 & 20** gifts for the **Adopt-a-Family** project will be collected. One consideration is to drop the gifts off early in the day and have the families come by late in the day to pick up their gifts.
 - We (*WOLGC*) can still adopt families as we have in the past.
- There is talk about combining the two Adopt-a-Family efforts into one.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: Barb De Lisa, Membership Chair, reported we currently have 759 members (*both men and women*) on the roster.

- The membership report for August and September was received and welcome letters went out.
- We seem to get new members after every WOLGC event.

Funeral Luncheons: **Never going to do what we did before to provide and staff the luncheons!**

Suzanne Keating, Funeral Luncheon Chair, conveyed our thoughts from the September Board Meeting to Gerard Hall, Liturgy Director. He would like to be able to offer this service to grieving families but knows he cannot do it without volunteer support. Being super careful about the safety of all, he shared that:

- there would be no more than 50 people permitted in DeSales Hall for a luncheon
- only 4 people at a table and preferably from the same family
- beverages might be just bottled water negating the need for volunteers to prepare/pour/serve beverages
- everyone would have to wear a mask
- hand sanitizer on all tables
- volunteers cannot touch food

In addition to volunteer availability, what Gerard needs to know is the cost of box lunches. To that end, Suzanne contacted several caterers to include:

- Kimberly Corporate Catering; quoted \$8.00 - \$10.00 per box (*small sandwich, chips, fruit cup, and cookie*) compared to the approximated \$2.00 per person when deli platters and donated salads and desserts were provided. May have to rethink this ministry based on cost.

AND

- Spoke with the Luncheon Coordinators regarding volunteer availability. They report not getting many volunteers as the vast majority are in the 'vulnerable' category and, therefore, do not want to volunteer. May have to reach out to the entire parish for help. Gerard asked about getting younger people to volunteer; however, younger people do not have discretionary time to give (*working, family responsibilities, children's activities, etc.*).

Gathering data for Gerard it was learned that some churches are doing buffets for 100 + people BUT families are paying. Another served a hot buffet for 120 people again family paying – WE ARE MORE CONSERVATIVE AND CAREFUL!

- Do we offer the service BUT have families pay? Should we make food decisions and then ask families to pay?
- Perhaps the better thing to do would be to provide a list of recommended caterers and let the family take it from there.

Question came to the floor: How are families reacting – funerals are small, families are okay.

Action: Suzanne will prepare a comprehensive report for Gerard to review.

Prayer Shawls: Members of the Prayer Shawl Group created a blanket for Fr. Dolan and presented it to him. The group received a VERY generous donation of beautiful yarn. Patty Donahue, Rosary Chair, offered to be "on call" to anyone interested in looking at available shawls while working with her group.

The group has been highly active; as per Prayer Shawl Chair Elizabeth Wonder's, report:

"For the past twelve months, we have kept a tally sheet to record finished work. It is a rough record (*sometimes the donated work is given away before it is tallied*) of the handiwork of our group and is as follows:

Sick and Homebound

29 Shawls
10 Lap Blankets (designed for wheelchairs)

Other Groups

13 Hats
10 Scarves

Baby Items

3 Baby Sweaters
10 Baby blankets
1 Baby Toys
1 Baby hats
2 Baby Booties
1 Baby Mitts

St Vincent de Paul Society items

(we invite the SVDP to give away miscellaneous handmade items in our "bins" at Christmas)

Items on Hand and

Available for Distribution as of 9-25-2020:

3 Rectangular Shawls
7 Triangular Shawls
13 Hats
10 Scarves
4 Baby blankets
1 Baby booties with matching mitts
1 Baby booties with matching hat
1 Baby sweater with matching hat
2 Baby Sweaters

Each item is tagged with a card containing an excerpt of a St Francis DeSales Prayer and a rosary made by the OLGCRosary Makers.

While COVID 19 has not stopped our handiwork, we no longer distribute shawls and look for help in locating recipients."

Quilters: Elvira Jakub, Quilter Chair, reported a change to the time from 11:00am to 11:30am for reciting the Rosary in Mary's Garden on Monday mornings.

- One of the members brought the quilt being made for Fr. Dolan to show everyone. By sheer coincidence, the blue fabric randomly chosen for his quilt is the same shade of blue as the habits worn by Mother Teresa's nuns. And we know how fond Fr. Dolan is of Mother Teresa! All were pleased!

Rosaries: Patty Donahue, Rosary Chair, reported that on September 21st the Rosary Group had its first in-person meeting since March. 8 people, including 1 new member, met for about 1 hour to create rosaries. The group's activities follow:

- **July:** mailed 2 boxes to the couple in Pennsylvania who forwarded the 300 rosaries and a box full of religious articles to schools, churches, prisons, etc.
- **September:** mailed 100 rosaries to Fr. Ssekweya in Uganda. It usually takes 3 months for the box to arrive. As the box cannot be tracked, hopefully we will hear from him in the New Year.
- Gave 10 rosaries to the Prayer Shawl Group to be donated with their shawls.

The group plans to meet on the first Monday of October, November, and December and then decide about meeting throughout the winter months.

Action: Give invoices for supplies to Brian Patterson for payment as Treasurer Peggy Loudin had extensive surgery on her foot and will be out of commission for at least a month.

Blood Drive: Merle Senyk, Blood Drive Chair is still working on drive set up.

Respect Life: Betsy Argauer, Respect Life Chair, shared 'thank you' notes from the Women's Choice Pregnancy Center, Fairfax Diapers, and Society of Life Ministries, recipients of donations to the July Diaper Drive. Our drive was very timely as their supply was extremely low.

Upcoming events:

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|------------------------------|---|
| October 11, 11:00am | Bishop Burbidge will celebrate Mass in Thanksgiving for the Gift of Human Life at Holy Trinity Church; not sure of life-chain |
| September 24 – November 8 | 40 Days For Life; prayers to be said outside Falls Church Healthcare Center |
| January 29 | March for Life |

CONCERNS AND/OR COMMENTS

Safety and Security Meeting: Fr. Matt held a meeting to discuss safety concerns; Elvira was invited and attended the meeting. She reported:

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, people have turned the OLGC property into a park; this is PRIVATE PROPERTY, it is NOT A PARK. Some of the observed and objectionable activities include:

- Neighborhood children are using the basketball court even when OLGC students are on recess
- Parking lot was used by a car detailing business
- People are filling the OLGC dumpster with personal trash
- Picnic tables are being used and then left unclean which invites unwanted animals
- Children are jumping the fence to use the playground
- People using the property as a short cut to get to the bike trail; some wave at the priests in the rectory
- Dogs are not allowed on the property as signage indicates; however, signs are being ignored. Dog poop not removed by the owners poses a health risk to all

- People fascinated by the Stations of the Cross trespass on the property; others attracted to the stained-glass Stations peer in the Chapel windows distracting meetings, instructions, etc. being conducted inside.

IN SHORT, Fr. Matt/we do not want anyone on the property for reasons other than church 'business' from several vantage points to include:

- The safety of our school children, both for health reasons and from becoming complacent about the 'threat' of strangers (*seeing the same person repeatedly transforms a stranger into 'someone they know' and worthy of their trust*).
- The liability if someone gets hurt on the property.

How to enforce:

- Police patrol more frequently
- Police issue Citation to anyone with a dog on the property
- HOA of neighboring areas spread the word
- Chains across entrances to the parking lot
- Fencing the property
- Speed bumps
- Block off all but one entrance as has been done in the past
- Precautions should be followed all the time, not just when school is in session

Follow-up meeting may be scheduled if needed. Safety and Security Committee may be put into place or has already been formed.

Adjournment: Merle led the Board in the closing prayer at 8:31 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Chirichella

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Recording Secretary