

Connections

Membership Meeting Summary

April 21, 2020

65 attendees

Donna Singer called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. via ZOOM. In her general remarks Donna commented on the loss of momentum that the organization was experiencing because of the pandemic. She is hopeful that the group will get back on track once the activity groups start up again. Donna described several interesting facts about the make-up of the **Connections** membership. Ridgewood residents make up the largest per cent of members, 31%, with Mahwah home to the second largest group of members at 16 %. A fun fact is the common first names of the members, the three largest categories: Patricia, 16 members; Carol 9, and 8 with the name Sue.

New Board Members. Donna announced new Board members. Janet Daly will step into the office of Vice President, Linda Bakian volunteered to serve as Second Vice President and Margie Battaglia will serve as Membership and Board Secretary. The five-person board has been working on a constitution and a set of policies and procedures for **Connections**. Once the two documents are finalized, they will be sent to the membership for review, revision and approval.

Constant Contact. Donna described the software purchased to enable communication among members. Janet Daly and she received training and have set up email distribution lists that include all members and each individual activity group. As new members join **Connections**, they will be added to the email lists for the activities that they indicate on their application. Donna will create a short instruction sheet to enable activity leaders to use the software for communicating with their groups.

ZOOM. A monthly subscription to ZOOM software has also been purchased to use for group meetings, such as we had today. Several groups are already using ZOOM to replace face to face meetings during this isolation period: book clubs and the writing group. Ideas for virtual meetings included speakers on current topics, happy hour, brunch, PJ party, movie group, joint exercise classes. Any member that believes they can use ZOOM should contact Donna. Linda Bakian will develop a ZOOM calendar of meetings.

Connections Website Update. New information was added to the web site under the *Schedule* link: Senior shopping hours, Qigong information, book club readings and docent led virtual tours of the Barnes Museum collections. Website: njconnections.com. Password to access the current roster: NEMOW20 (all caps)

Treasurer's Report (Lee Atieh) March 2020. The beginning checking account balance \$8,715; Deposits \$2,430; Expenses \$1,944; Balance end of March: \$9,201.

Membership Update. (Margie Battaglia) Badges and lanyards are being created for every member. They should be worn at general meetings and at other large functions within **Connections**. The badge and lanyard will be the personal property of each member. There are currently 194 members of **Connections**.

Next Meeting. May 19, 10 am. Donna will send ZOOM link to members, assuming we will not meet face to face.

Respectfully submitted
Margie Battaglia, Board Secretary