

Connections Membership Meeting

September 19, 2023

Attendance: 68

Zoom Attendance: 4

Recorder: Linda Bakian

Opening Remarks

Brenda Brunelle welcomed the attendees and thanked them for coming to the first general meeting since June 2023. She encouraged everyone to read her emails and RSVP when asked.

Nominations

Donna Singer, Chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked Pat McDonagh and Marilyn Chuebon for their hard work as Nominating Committee Members and announced Joan Cooke will be on the ballot for Second Vice-President. The election will be held at the November general meeting and the passing of the gavel will take place at the December one.

Treasurer's Report

Lee Atieh informed the group July's expenses included deposits for tickets for the October trip to Some Like It Hot and the December one to Caramoor. The money will be returned to Connections. In addition, there were costs for Adobe and necessary technology. Since there were no new members in July, there was no additional income. In August, the balance in the Connections bank account was \$11,900.

Pastor Bruce Ballantine

Brenda introduced Bruce Ballantine, Pastor of The First Presbyterian Church. She thanked him for his and the church's support and presented him with a donation from Connections. Pastor Ballantine spoke about how happy he was to have Connections meet at the church and how important the organization is for the emotional, mental, and physical health of its members.

Pastor Ballantine invited the women to attend a Night Out to Support The Aleppo Christian Center. The dinner is a fund raiser for the construction of a building on the site of the bombed Aleppo Presbyterian one-hundred and fifty year old church.

Activity Leaders

Brenda announced the new activities and their leaders:

- Opera led by Anita Young, the first meeting will be 10/21, at AMC Garden State. Time to be announced

- Stitch and Chat led by Carol Coleman will start on Thursday, 10/19, from 1-3, in the pool room, at the NWSC, in Midland Park.
- Pinochle led by Andrea Galluccio, started on Monday, 9/11, at NWSC, Midland Park, in the art room. 14 ladies attended.

The Zoom Book Club is looking for new members.

Carol Maloney announced the PBS group will meet on Wednesday, September 27, in the FPC Library, at 1pm.

Donna Singer informed the group the Cooking Club will be holding another virtual cooking class taught by the chef from Puglia, on November 2.

Denise Santora Mosher reminded members the next luncheon is at Fino's, on Sept. 26. Sixty-two women have signed up to attend, and the deadline for giving a check is up today. The Wednesday, October 25, luncheon will be at Due Fratelli Ristorante, in Hawthorne. Denise will send an email with the information.

Carolyn Seibel told the attendees the trips to see Some Like It Hot and to the Caramoor are sold out. She asked the women to raise their hands if they are interested in going to Atlantic City in June. The response was positive so Carolyn will continue to work on that trip. Carolyn is considering one to the Museum of Natural history followed by lunch at Madeleine's, in Northvale, NJ. A trip to the Culinary Institute is, also, a possibility. There will be two trips in the first half of next year.

Pat Deaver is planning a November movie with dinner discussion at the Garden State Plaza.

Membership

Susan Steele reported there are two-hundred-seventeen members. There is a waiting list for new members, five per month from October to January and three in February. She asked people to volunteer to be a sponsor. There is now a much better idea of the number of women in each activity. Sue and Donna have revised the application to improve it.

The new members were introduced by their sponsors. They are:

Janet Melia sponsor Mary Aletras
Linda Bullaro sponsor Sharon Pomante
Judith McKim sponsor Susan G. Steele
Ann Merena sponsor Diane Paoli
Carol Beiter sponsor Joan Cooke
Patricia Lowenwirth sponsor Audrey Ruhlmann

Brenda ended the business meeting with:

A wish that every day for you
Will be happy from the start
And may you always have good luck
And a song within your heart

Picnic

An indoor Picnic followed. Members had been asked to bring lunch, a drink and if possible, a dessert to share.

The following games were held:

Ladder Ball, Susan Steele,
Putting, Janet Daly
Photo Booth, Donna Singer and Linda Bakian
Jenga, Marianne Siccardi
Connect 4, Marianne Siccardi

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