

I.I. Chapter 121 Business Meeting Minutes

February 29, 2020 – 1:00 p.m.

Johnson & Sons Florist, St. Paul

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

In attendance: Patricia Farnham, Patricia Boehne, Cynthia Chapman, Maggie Allison, Amber Tritabaugh, Donna Winberg, Pat Stahl, Lynn Stahl, Anne-Lise Whitescarver, Jenny Sun, Carol Lui, Sue Bagge, Myrna Little, Hiroko Shade (attended post-meeting)

Treasury Update: Myrna provided an update of treasury funds. We currently have \$5,043.24 in our bank account. We historically have had roughly \$3000 on average in our account. The larger amount of funds is in part due to the fundraiser challenge last year as well as the \$500 subsidy we received from I.I. Tokyo Headquarter for our 50th Anniversary.

Programs Update: Carol Lui shared that she assisted with arranging the Kokedama workshop with Johnson & Sons Florist today, working with fellow chapter member Amber Tritabaugh. Carol reminded everyone that the next scheduled program is a private tour of the Living Clay Exhibition at Mia on March 19th. Additional programs this year include a visit to the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden sometime this Summer and a lecture on a relevant topic, e.g. Japanese culture, which will be arranged by Claudia Allison. Myrna shared that the Patricia Gustafson, local Ming Chiao chapter president, reached out to Don Marier requesting a joint Sumi-e (Asian ink/brush painting) and Ikebana workshop during one of their meetings this November. The Programs Committee will work on the details of partnering with Ming Chiao for this collaborative workshop.

Membership Update: Sue Bagge reminded everyone about the upcoming annual membership drive and encouraged everyone to submit their membership form and dues in a timely manner (by June 15th). Sue also reminded everyone that Art in Bloom (AIB) will take place at Mia April 23-26, 2020. The signature piece for AIB this year is *Floral Legacy*, a couture bag by contemporary Dakota artist Holly Young. Sue also shared that Rosella Fefercorn, longtime AIB pedestal floral committee member, recently passed away at age 99. Rosella was involved in local plant societies, garden clubs and the Minnesota State Fair.

Chapter Theme: Anne-Lise Whitescarver reminded members that we are collecting ideas for themes for chapter growth and sustenance. Anne-Lise attended the 2019 North and Central American Region (NCAR) Conference in Dallas last year, where a *Grow Ikebana* forum was held. The Grow Ikebana theme generated conversation during the last Board meeting. Anne-Lise asked members to submit their theme ideas to her via email. The submitted themes will be voted on and a winner will be decided. The winning theme will be used with our chapter name and

logo. The theme would support our international motto, Friendship Through Flowers. Myrna contributed that with 2020 being a new year and a new decade that it seems fitting that we have a chapter theme for 2020.

New Website: Myrna reminded members about our new chapter website, which fellow member Rebecca Chesin worked diligently on. Rebecca spent many hours creating the website and transferring data (photos, etc.) from our old website. We recently switched from a Yahoo platform to WordPress. Myrna thanked Rebecca Chesin, our new website director, for all her work and also thanked Donna Winberg for creating and maintaining our old website since it was developed in 2008. Members should have received an email invitation from WordPress for user account creation to access the Members only section of the website. Members should check their spam/junk mail folder. If members cannot access the Members section, they should follow the instructions provided in the last newsletter or contact Rebecca directly. Cynthia Chapman said she tried at least three times to access the website without success and Myrna suggested that she reach out to Rebecca. Members are encouraged to provide feedback to Myrna as we welcome suggestions for the website.

Any Other Business: Anne-Lise discussed that some of our members may not be receiving the chapter newsletter due to internet access issues or infrequent email access. In these situations, the newsletter can be mailed. Myrna offered to mail newsletters to members who fit this category.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m. Donna provided the first motion and Carol seconded the motion.

Myrna introduced Amber to the group. Amber led the Kokedama workshop, which was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully Submitted,
Myrna Little