

TLC WGC Annual Membership Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2023
16105 Foremast Place 3:30-5:30 pm

Members in attendance:

Barbara Najmy, Jennifer Alokeh, Lauren Hirsch, Ruth Harshman, Nancy Lepain, Josephine Coco, Kathy Hall, Sheila Lau, Terry Martinez, Julie Swan, Joy Stone, Susan Morris, Sarah McGee, Randi Weintraub, Wendy Fox, Pat Summerlee, Deborah Callahan Stratton, Vicki Schrimpf, Terri Greenbaum, Lori Miller, Gari Palmer, Sharon Thomas, Bonne Clark, Roxanne DiGangi, Mary Carroll, Kristen Murray, Lisa Levesque, Carol Booher, Jeanne McGeehin, Julie Kean, Carol Kloeppel, Bernadette Waterman, Pat Pope, Stephanie Lang, Milly Chaykin, Christine Handel.

I. Call to Order Barbara Najmy called the meeting to order and opened with

Good afternoon beautiful ladies of our giving circle!

What an honor it is to stand before such an inspiring group of women who are dedicated to making a positive impact in our community.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Ruth for opening her beautiful home and hosting this year's annual meeting.

Next..... let me express my gratitude to each one of you for taking time out of your day to be here. Your commitment to our mission continues to inspire me and all of us.

Also, from the bottom of my heart, I would like to take a moment to thank and recognize and our indispensable Board Members, Jennifer, Lauren, Ruth, Nancy, Sheila & Josephine. Without their dedication, persistence, and commitment.... Our organization would not be where we are today.

Ladies, together, we have the power to transform and make a difference in our community.

And your presence here today reinforces that power of collective giving.

This year our collective efforts were comprised of the generosity of individual contributions from members and residents and fundraising.

And beyond measure are the lives that you touched through our outreach activities.

Together, we can achieve so much more than we could ever accomplish on an individual basis.

So, as we start another year for Our Circle.... let's continue to remember the impact we can have on this community....

Whether it's supporting children, education, healthcare, or any other cause that is close to our hearts.

You will hear from Board Members an emphasis on collective giving and the impact we can make.

So that your contributions can continue to make a difference to those in need in our community and continue to create a brighter future for generations to come.

Lastly, but most importantly, let's embrace the power of friendship and collaboration, continue Building strong connections and supporting one another.

Fore that is the very core of what our Circle is all about.

By working together, we can empower, uplift, and inspire each other to reach new heights.

Always remember that The Lake Club Women's Giving Circle is an organization that will remain in perpetuity with the community and something to be proud of.

You each have a gift and a purpose so continue to share it.

Thank you once again for being part of this remarkable gathering. You are all truly amazing, and I'm excited to see the incredible things we will achieve together in 2024.

Barbara turned the meeting over to Jennifer.

II. Recap of 2023

Good Afternoon Ladies,

I stand before you today with a heart full of gratitude and pride as we gather for our 2023 annual fall membership meeting. The past year has been a testament to the power of women coming together, united in a common purpose of making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Through our collective generosity and unwavering dedication, we have witnessed the transformative impact of our philanthropic endeavors. Our support has touched countless lives, bringing hope, empowerment, and positive change to individuals and communities in need.

We kicked off 2023 with the Embracing our Differences Art Exhibit Tour. We organized 2 intimate, yet successful fundraisers, Gals, Galentines & Gratitude & Shake Your Shamrocks. Through our Outreach efforts and activities, we were able to organize a full calendar of volunteer service opportunities and a seamless online sign-up system.

The finance committee has worked hard this past year to better improve our accounting record keeping as well as the roll out and implementation of our administration fee and soon to be minimum annual contribution fee in 2024.

Our website has been maintained with the most current up-to-date information, which has proven to be an invaluable tool in helping spread our news and providing organizations a seamless grant application process! The grants committee is going to be evaluating the multiple applications we received, so stay tuned to receiving more news about these organizations.

Nancy Lepain graciously accepted the Outreach Committee Chair, through which she has dedicated these last few months to visiting and calling local 501c3 organizations and creating a 2024 outreach calendar.

Additionally, your executive board has persevered and worked diligently on the Bylaws and standing rules. Thank you to the board, Jeremy at Najmy Thompson and Mike Harshman for their legal counsel expertise, this has been a labor of love!

As we reflect on our accomplishments, we must also recognize the challenges that lie ahead. The world faces complex and ever-evolving issues that require our continued commitment and innovative solutions. Yet, I am confident that our circle, with its depth of compassion and resilience, is more than capable of rising to the occasion. Our strength lies in our unity and the diversity of our perspectives. Each of us brings unique experiences, insights, and passions to this circle, making it a powerful force for change. Let us embrace this diversity and learn from one another, for it is through collaboration and open dialogue that we can amplify our impact.

As we allocate our resources, let us be guided by empathy and compassion. The stories of those we have touched remind us that behind every cause, there are real people with hopes, dreams, and struggles. It is this human connection that fuels our passion and drives us to do more.

Let us also foster a culture of learning and continuous improvement within our circle. By staying informed about emerging issues and evaluating the impact of our initiatives, we can ensure that our efforts yield the greatest possible outcomes.

As we move forward, let us remember the tremendous potential we hold to create positive change in the world. Together, we can be a driving force for social good, leaving a lasting legacy that reflects the strength and compassion of women united in philanthropy.

Thank you for your time, your passion, and your dedication. Let us continue this journey together, empowering lives and building a brighter future for all.

III. Jennifer introduced the Presentation of Reports

a. Treasurer - Lauren Hirsch discussed the Manatee Community Foundation and Fund One and Fund Two. To date, 1221 women are members with 83 being fully vested, having paid their \$1000 obligation. Fund One has \$118,000 and is the endowed Fund which means no funds may be granted from that Fund. TCL WGC may request of MCF that the interest earned be transferred to TLC WGC Fund Two to be granted. The Board has determined that all new membership money will be placed in Fund Two for distribution in the following grant cycle. Currently Fund Two has \$22,382 which will be disbursed in the current grant cycle, October-December 2023. Lauren presented the MAC (Minimum Annual Contribution) which the Board has determined to be \$200, plus a \$25 annual administrative fee for each member once she has met the \$1000 obligation. The Invoicing Specialist, **Terry Martinez**, said that the January 2024 billing will specify each member's obligation remaining or the MAC; all will be assessed the administrative fee. Discussion followed.

b. Membership - Sheila Lau discussed the statement of purpose of the Membership Committee which is to recruit new members and to support all activities of WGC. A QR code has been created by Gari Palmer and implemented on business cards to direct interested women to the application forms and information on WGC. **Josephine Coco** discussed future recruitment opportunities; November 9, 5-7:00, Invite and Unite Social will be held at the Clubhouse for existing members and new recruits. All members are encouraged to bring a guest. In responding to a question about a list of members, Jennifer reminded us that the website has a Members Only section where the roster is available. Jennifer will send out a link to the website to the membership. She also said that members need to check their junk/spam; her Constant Contact email goes there, and members do not see it. She gets reports from Constant Contact regarding the number of emails that are sent, including those that bounce-back, and the number that are opened (but whether the email is read is not determinable).

c. Outreach - Julie Swan discussed the outreach that happened in 2023. The membership volunteered at Mothers Helping Mothers, Feeding Empty Little Tummys, Embracing Our Differences, Children's Home Society, Tidwell Blue Butterfly, School Attendance Support, and TWIG. **Nancy Lepain** is developing the 2024 schedule for volunteer opportunities. Anyone with suggestions, please notify Nancy.

d. Grants - Nancy Lepain discussed the use of the website for organizations to apply for grants. Applications began in October and the committee is currently visiting new ones of the 13 received. The new ones include Teen Court, Habitat for Humanity, Foundation for Dreams, Manatee Children's Services and Therapy with Miniature Horses. After all applicants have been qualified, the committee will send through Constant Contact the ballot listing all applicants for the membership to select the recipients. The committee does follow up with a grant survey to the recipients to be certain that our grant was used for the intended purpose.

IV. Discussion of Bylaws - Ruth Harshman discussed the history of the bylaws in their many iterations and that the bylaws have been sent to the membership providing ample time for review and questions. Some members suggestions were incorporated into the final draft.

V. Vote on Bylaws. A motion was made to approve the bylaws as presented by **Gari Palmer**, seconded by **Sheila Lau**. Hearing no further discussion, the question was called, and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. New Business - Jennifer discussed fundraising, historically and going forward. Wine, Women and Jewels had been the signature event. A venue, a chair, and an idea are all that we need. The Galentine annual event will continue but it is a friend-raiser. If anyone wants to spear-head an event, please let Jennifer or Barbara know. The Manatee Boys and Girls Club has asked us to be judges in their outstanding teen program. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer.

VII. Member Q and A - A member asked about opportunities to become active. WGC needs a secretary, and members can be involved in Outreach, Grants, Membership, Communications, and a fundraising chair is needed.

VIII. Closing Remarks

IX. Adjournment - Jennifer moved to adjourn the meeting and Barbara seconded. Motion passed unanimously.