

TSINTZINA SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING
October 25, 2009
Mars, PA

Board president Gene Geracimos called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Members present were Lee Costianes, Thalia Nickles Johanssen, Peter Nickles, Stephanie Schlick, John Zacharias, and Skevos Zervos. James Burlotos attended by cell phone connection. Members absent were Alex Burlotos, Pauline Costianes, D'Louisa Ford, Jacob Johanssen, Olin Johanssen, James Karfes, Nicholas Lambros, Athan Laskaris, George Sfikas, and Peter Sfikas. Nonboard members attending were John Schlick, Roger Volk, and Barbara Georgetson Zervos.

- I. The meeting opened with a prayer and moment of silence to recognize the recent deaths of Annette Nickles Mavrophilipos and Chris Costianes.
- II. The board noted Thalia Nickles Johanssen taking the board position previously held by the late Annette Nickles Mavrophilipos.
- III. Minutes of the two teleconference meeting contained some errors, but the board agreed no corrections were necessary at this late juncture.
- IV. Minutes from the board meeting held July 25, 2009 were mentioned. The board waved the reading of the minutes. Peter Nickes moved and John Zacharias seconded to accept the minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

V. Financial Report

- a. James Burlotos has taken the office of Treasurer. He has the accounting files and check books. Signature cards for the accounts are complete; Jim said he would mail the cards to the bank by October 26.
- b. Jim also stated that he received the energy bill from National Fuel. He agreed to send the payment out as soon as possible.
- c. The board agreed to send all checks for fundraising to Jim. The checks for memorials and gifts for the Endowment Fund will still go to John Zacharias.
- d. Jim reported the following dollar amounts in the society accounts:

Account type	Amount (\$)
General Fund	\$1,078.98
Rental Income	\$76.70
Endowment Fund	\$26,800.00
Total	\$27,955.68

- e. John Zacharias and Jim both noted changing the society's fiscal year to September 1 to August 31. The change will simplify the society's accounting system.
- f. Roger Volk deposited checks into the rental account of \$500 and presented \$521 worth of bills to be paid for the society. He reported that a rental scheduled for November 22 is expected to bring in \$250.

- g. The projected expenses to the end of the year suggest the society will again have a shortfall. John Zacharias asked for five board members to send their \$100 checks for 2010 dues to Jim Burlotos as soon as possible. This collection will be enough to get the society to the end of the year.
- h. Jim Burlotos gave the board his second address, which will be better for board business transactions. His contact information is:
 - James Burlotos
 - 516 Bartwell Drive, Unit 2
 - Seneca, SC 29678
 - 864-882-1915
- j. The board noted that the society still needs approximately \$22K to fund the building and grounds.
- k. 2009 convention receipts:
 - a. Jim Burlotos reported that 121 people attended the 2009 convention. The society lost \$570 and used the General Fund monies to cover the loss.
 - b. The Sunday breakfast in 2009 breakfast brought in \$335, a modest increase from 2008. (See fee structure in New Business.)
 - c. The Thursday night dinner brought in \$695. (See fee structure in New Business.)

VI. Building and Grounds

- a. Roger Volk painted the inside of the building, rehung the pictures, and repaired the Poolos Hall carpet. He has been able to catch up on items on the to-do list for the last few years.
- b. Gene Geracimos said the electrical and plumbing repairs were complete, with the possible exception of old pipes the plumber has not located yet. He also said no major repairs were anticipated this year.
- c. Gene Geracimos asked Roger to find a professional to power-wash the cement porch after 4 July 2010 and before the convention. He will also replace stone this Spring.
- d. Roger and John Schlick agreed to meet in Jamestown after the first of the year. They will address the to-do items on Gene's lists and schedule them appropriately so that Roger will not be swamped with work right before the convention. From that list, Roger and John will establish to-do lists of preventive maintenance.
- e. Roger agreed to install a second phone line in his apartment for the society's phone and fax machine. The board agreed this change was necessary to prevent damage to the machine during the winter months and to help Roger and Christine receive rental contracts more easily.

VII. Old Business

- a. The board agreed that old business about smoking, alcohol, and dress code have been resolved at the board meeting during the convention. Peter B. received kudos for his deft handling of what could have been a touchy situation.
- b. The only remaining old business item was changing the society's corporate status to a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

- i. Peter B. agreed to explore the steps necessary for changing the society's status. John Zacharias agreed to contact legal people he knows from his work with another foundation.
- ii. The board agreed that the best reason for changing status was that donors could deduct their donations. The other reason for change is the requirement for the society to be a not-for-profit or nonprofit so that it can apply for outside funding.
- iii. John Zacharias reported his conversation with Jim Gianukos (La Quinta, CA) vis-à-vis the change in status. Stephanie Schlick agreed to contact Jim Gianukos and speak to him about building restoration.
- iv. John Zacharias is going to take the lead on getting us the 501(c)(3).

NEW BUSINESS

- I. Gene Geracimos introduced "Tsintzinians Honored and Remembered Fundraiser," established for society members to honor their family by contributing to the society. Members who donate to this fund will receive a certificate and a printed pamphlet listing the people honored and remembered. The pamphlet will be distributed in February.
- II. Stephanie Schlick will send out the 2010 Dues appeal during the third week of January, along with a letter asking people to send back an updated membership form. The updated membership forms will constitute a new society directory that will include the telephone numbers and email addresses of members who agree to publish them.
- III. Gene Geracimos suggested that the board poll the membership about a change of dates for the convention. The board agreed to keep the traditional dates.
- IV. John Gregory contacted Gene Geracimos about the possibility of erecting a cell tower on the clubhouse property. According to John, the area needs one. A cell tower would bring in much-needed revenue for the society. Jim Burlotos agreed to follow up with John Gregory.
- V. **The Web Site**
 - a. The web site is overdue for an update. Stephanie Schlick suggested advertising among the young members on the society's Facebook page for an intern who would agree to work with Helen Laskaris. As an incentive the intern would receive free admission to the 2010 convention. The board agreed to advertise for an intern. Stephanie Schlick will contact George Sfikas (Facebook admin) for instructions on how to place the advertisement on the page and contact the page members.
- VI. **Membership Lists, Directories & Chronicle**
 - a. The board agreed that Stephanie Schlick will maintain the membership list and update it when necessary for mailings. She will copy the membership list to Gene Geracimos and Thalia Johanssen.
 - b. Thalia Johanssen noted that if Pete and Helen do not have the necessary time to produce the Chronicle, Thalia would be willing to help them.
- VII. **2010 Fall Fundraiser**
 - a. Rather than selling another raffle, the board agreed to print a membership directory and a cookbook.

- b. John Zacharias suggested selling ads in the membership directory. The board agreed to do so.
- c. Thalia Johanssen (with her sister's help) and Peter B. agreed to work on the cookbook. Peter did a cookbook for another organization. The printing cost was \$2 per copy, and the sell price was \$10 per copy. All recipes were attributed to the person who originated the recipe. Several recipes for the same dish were included in the cookbook because different families have their own recipes. Members who wish to contribute to the cookbook can submit their recipes online.
- d. The board discussed giving members who order both the directory and cookbook a modest discount.
- e. Gene Geracimos closed the discussion by asking board members to submit other ideas for the 2010 Fall Fundraiser in time for the May meeting.

VIII. 2010 Membership Fees and Structure

- a. The board discussed raising membership fees and agreed to keep the present structure of \$30 for an individual (age 21 or older), \$50 for a family (including children younger than 21), and \$100 or more for a benefactor.
- b. The board agreed to formally recognize benefactors on the web site, on Facebook, and in The Chronicle, unless the benefactors choose to remain anonymous.

IX. 2010 Convention Fees & Structure

- a. The board agreed to table discussion of convention-registration fees until the May meeting and include changes (if any) in The Chronicle.
- b. Although the dollar intake for the Sunday breakfast increased this year to \$335, the board discussed including the price of breakfast in the convention fees; that is, Sunday breakfast would be free. However, a basket for donations would be placed on the buffet table for those members who wished to contribute additional funds.
- c. Gene Geracimos and others suggested changing the menu for Thursday night. The dollar intake was \$695, and the general consensus was that the menu should remain the same. The board agreed, however, that attendees who come on Thursday should be reminded that dinner includes dancing to a live band.
- d. To that end Jim Burlotus suggested the society print a pamphlet and posters for the convention that outline all the costs and activities for the weekend. Pamphlets would be sent directly to people who register for the convention in advance. Copies would be taken to the convention for late registrants. Stephanie Schlick agreed to work with Jim on the pamphlet and a corresponding centerfold-advertisement for The Chronicle.
- e. The board agreed to make sure everyone is seated for Friday and Saturday night dinner by 5:45 p.m. with serving to begin at 6:00 p.m. The board agreed to reduce portion sizes to prevent food waste.
- f. The convention board meeting time has changed to 11:00 a.m. on Friday.
- g. The board agreed to run the talent show during the cocktail hour on Saturday.
- h. The board discussed offering one free drink to any attendee who shows up by 10:00 p.m. for the dancing. No vote was taken on this measure, but all agreed the society needs to promote on-time attendance because the band plays whether or not anyone is present to dance.

- i. 2010 Reunion Registration
 - i. The board changed convention registration times. Friday registration will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday registration will be from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 - ii. Olin Johanssen and Athan Laskaris will run registration. Stephanie Schlick will assist. Stephanie Schlick agreed to set up a network between the registration computers so that the society has real-time attendance data for the kitchen and dollar data for the treasurer.
 - iii. Using the membership list, the registration team will develop a database rather than use a paper form to register attendees. The database will contain up-to-date membership information, including who has preregistered and paid dues. Dollar items for convention fees and donations will sum up for the attendee.
- X. Membership and Building Restoration**
- a. Stephanie Schlick gave a short presentation on membership and building restoration. The presentation has been sent to all board members for their comments.
- XI. Priority Action Items**
- a. The board agreed to give priority to
 - i. pursuing 501(c)(3) status soonest.
 - ii. changing the bylaws.
 - iii. pursuing an advertising campaign to attract new members and rent out the clubhouse for additional revenues.

There being no further business or discussion, the board adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Schlick (for Pauline Costianes, Secretary)