

February 16, 2010 Meeting of the Annisquam Sewing Circle (Scroll down for prior meeting minutes)

President Sandy Andrew called the meeting to order at 1:37.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted.

Members agreed on donations of \$25 each to Hospice of the North Shore and the Annisquam Village Church in memory of Sis Mechem.

Pat Makin reported that three Annisquam seniors will be graduating in June. She will send letters regarding scholarships in April.

Members were asked to be at the March meeting at 12:00 noon to paint bowls for the Empty Bowl Dinner.

Stevie Neal gave a comprehensive overview of the Gloucester Education Foundation program. Since its inception four years ago the Foundation has used a broad based approach to fund raising. 94% of the money goes directly to the school system. Both innovative collaborative programs and courses cut by budget constraints have received funding. An extended-day program offers both academic and enrichment courses. Allocations are made after careful review by the School Committee, the Superintendent of Schools and the Foundation.

Members agreed to award the Foundation \$500. This is in accordance with the previous recommendation of the Finance Committee made pending an explanation of the mission, work and funding of this organization.

Sarah Hackett spoke of her work in Haiti and also of the effects of the recent earthquake. Her work has resulted in family planning clinics, a women's sewing cooperative, a library, tuition aid and micro-lending for small farmers. The non-profit Haiti Project Inc. empowers women, families and communities to raise their standard of living, providing a viable template for development in impoverished areas globally. The Circle voted to give \$3000. directly to her discretionary fund. This came from funds held in abeyance by the Finance Committee for emergency or unexpected needs.

Kari Gunn, Stevie Neal and Jill Lovejoy provided a bountiful tea.

Respectfully submitted,

Hazel von Rosenvinge,
Secretary