

The Annisquam Sewing Circle
Minutes of the September 25, 2012 Meeting held at the Village Library

Board Members present were President Carol Stearns, Vice President Ann Mannle, Treasurer Nancy Martin, and Correspondence Secretary /Sunshine Lady Joan Collier.

The Meeting was preceded by a sociable work session for the upcoming Fair. The meeting lasted from Noon to 1:30 PM. The focus was tying together pinecones with wired picks, which will be used on the boxwood trees and wreaths and looking through the many boxes of materials left from last year's prep meetings. Joyce Novak, one of our new members, demonstrated a unique way to wire together three pinecones by forming a loop with the wire. This proved to be a very successful method. Thank you Joyce!

The Business Meeting began at 1:35 PM and was chaired by President Carol Stearns, who carefully read the minutes of the last meeting. One number was questioned & it was decided to clarify the number of women who are members. Carol will ask Secretary, Pippy Guiliano as to the correct number and a correction will be made. The minutes were then approved.

Carol Stearns welcomed our new members, Joyce Novak & Vicki Bourneuf.

Treasurer, Nancy Martin is still collecting dues, although the number of outstanding dues is low at this point. Our funds remain much the same as two weeks ago.

Madame President asked the members to table the issue of a Business Associate Membership until February 2013. This will give us more time to discuss & focus on the pros & cons of the issue rather than try to fit it in during this busy prep time for our Fair Fundraiser on Dec. 1st.

There will be no Meeting during Thanksgiving Week, so that all may prepare their Birds for the Big Day or travel to celebrate Turkey Day with someone else who knows a good caterer!

A discussion followed concerning crafts for the Fair. Materials are needed for decorating the greens. Stevie Neal & Bonnie Angus will be taking an inventory of what we have and will add exciting new items to our coffers! (Judy Gustin has an inventory, but is away at the moment.)

Mary Pope suggested that we gussy up our donated delectables for the Gourmet Table with clever, attractive crafty type decorations to entice our customers.

And then came the Baskets.....

Madame President stirred the discussion pot with a suggestion of baskets, "smaller is better?"

DeeDee Sargent felt that there were too many baskets last year. Pat Makin said we should be starting soon –like now on the baskets. Suzanne Brown suggested that we be flexible with the basket items, as some people complained that their items were not kept together. She would like us not to put limits on our donated items as they need the flexibility to assemble the baskets. Mary Pope had customers from last year who felt the baskets were too expensive. Sue Willis thought that there were too many baskets last year and that reducing the basket prices at the end of the Fair was painful. She thought that 20 baskets at \$20 might be better.

Carol Stearns told us the Basket Committee was composed of Suzanne Brown, Dottie Roeske (one of our new members), Sandy Andrew and Patsy Whitlock. The Committee uses the Exchange to put together the baskets and have the luxury of turning on the heat. Alas, the Secret is out!

Several people asked, "What are our responsibilities?" Stevie Neal asked if a list of responsibilities/donations for the Fair be forwarded to all members. Carol Stearns will pass on this info to members.

A lively discussion on the Grab Bags followed !

Jackie Littlefield gave a short history of grabs; it turns out that grabs were only for children in the old days. Now they are used as favors and stocking stuffers. It has been noted that some people are still punching holes in the wrapping paper. Deb Marston reminded us that all items shall be new and please, NO USED SOAP! We are to label each grab male/female/child + age/ pet (cat or dog). A brief discussion followed and Sandy Andrew suggested that the price be raised to \$2. Maureen Quine felt that the \$1 price should stay as it is since people know its a deal. Carol Stearns declared, "One dollar it shall be."

The idea of adding a jewelry table was suggested. Betsy Colby reminded us that Lida had a jewelry table at the plant sale and it did very well. Mary Pope proposed that we add the jewelry table to the craft table, instead of making crafts the members hate! Mary Warner and Deb Marston will be in charge of the jewelry table. Connie Mason has made 8 cases of red pepper jelly from a recipe that's in the cookbook. It was noted that in the past Lida made chocolate, Holly Perry made dog biscuits, and Michelle Cook made cocoa cones.

There was no raffle last year, as the money was not generated in prior years. Sue Willis suggested we take \$100 and buy an item that would be unusual. If anyone has any ideas they should let Carol know. Carol reminded us that members will be creating small paintings that will be individually raffled through a silent auction.

The Sunshine Lady, Joan Collier, sent flowers to Pam Saylor's daughter Emily on behalf of the Sewing Circle. Several members have suggested that we volunteer to help Pam out by offering to stay with Emily to give Pam a break, or visit with Pam.

Martha Hooper spoke about the membership, which is full at this time. Ann Mannle spoke about the Youth Outreach Initiative of the Cape Ann Symphony and Carol Stearns spoke about Hazel von Rosenvinge's funding request for the Cape Ann Museum's children's educational program. Carol hopes to have Courtney Richardson talk to us about the Museum's programs.

Donna Caselden showed the members items that that had been donated for the Fair. They included colorful knitted hats and scarves with interesting designs; a cute child's charm bracelet with a nautical theme; and hand-painted key holders.

The cookbooks continue to sell at the Cape Ann Museum, the Wenham Tea House, Lula's, and the Exchange. Cookbooks were recently purchased at Lula's as bridal party favors, and President Stearns will be taking ten cookbooks to her reunion in Connecticut as gifts for her friends.

The next work meeting is all about BOWS and will meet at 12 Noon on Tuesday October 9th in the Leonard Room at the Village Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Mannle