

ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday July 13, 2023

The Executive Board was called to order by President Harry Bennett, at 9:30 AM at the Wyckoff Reformed Church, Wyckoff NJ. The following members were in attendance:

Harry Bennett, President

Jim Atieh, 1st Vice President

Tom Donch, 2nd Vice President

Mike Kelley, Treasurer

Tony Dilorgi, Assistant Treasurer

Rich Bernarde, Secretary

David Voehl, Membership Chairman

Doug Cooper, Immediate Past President - Absent

Mark Cohen, Past President

Jim Mallen, Liaison to the WRC

Marty Valerio – Communications Director

John Murphy – Coordinator, AU Christmas Party

John Caikowski – Club Leader Trips and Tours

- John Caikowski from Trips and Tours attended the Board meeting to request \$1,000 in appropriation in 2024 in the event that he uses all his current 2023 reserves of \$2,231 (\$2,075 + \$156 at June 30, 2023) and runs negative on Trip and Tours events in 2023. John explained due to the massive cost increases, especially in the cost of buses which were \$800 before the pandemic and now cost \$1,300/\$1,400. That's an inflationary cost increase of over 63%. Harry advised John that the goal going forward on Trips and Tours events is to break even; but don't overcharge our members. The Board unanimously approved \$1,000 for potential Trips and Tours overruns in 2024. John Caikowski requested Board approval to have a luncheon for the Trips and Tours team. The Board approved John's request. At Harry's request, John Caikowski will provide Mike Kelley with a 2024 budget projection.

- John Murphy attended the Executive Board meeting to provide the Board with an update on the 2023 Christmas party. The 2023 Christmas party will be in the same format as 2022. Meaning, an extensive cocktail hour including shrimp and lamb chops, open bar for the full event, and a sit-down dinner with several entrée choices. We have lowered the guarantee of members attending with Season's from 200 (2022) to 175 (2023).
- The full all-inclusive costs estimate is \$108.50 per person. It was agreed to charge members \$99.50 this year. Last year members were charged \$89.50, the increase is 11% inflation.
- Seasons requires the final headcount that will be used to calculate the final invoice, 10 days before the event date (November 24, 2023, which happens to be Thanksgiving). For 2023, any members cancellation requests *Must* be received by 11/23. Any member request for refunds received after November 23, 2023, will not be accepted. The final headcount will be submitted to Seasons on November 24.
- 2024 Negotiations with Seasons will take place in November 2023. If the Board wants to review options with Seasons for the 2024 event, with the goal of reducing costs, the research, proposal, and board review will have to be completed in October 2023. The current policy is a full refund before the cutoff date. After the cutoff date it is up to the Board's discretion.
- For 2023, AU will pick up the cost of six dinners. Two for Pastor Andy and his wife; plus, four to be used by the Midland Park VFW senior management.
- John Murphy recommended that whenever anyone discusses the 2023 Christmas party that they mention the current high inflation rate as the reason why the cost has gone significantly higher.
- Harry recommended that Mike Kelley increase the reserve for the 2024 Christmas party by 10%.
- Harry proposed the approval of the minutes from the June 13, 2023, both Board and General meetings be approved; all agreed.
- Treasurer's Report - Mike Kelley reviewed the June Treasurer's Report. Our cash position remains strong. We currently have \$24K on deposit in the various bank accounts.
- Care and Concern – Tony Dilorgi advised that Ken DeGraw was in the hospital.
- Communications – Various members are seeking local contractors for home repairs/improvements. On our prior website, this information was maintained by Don Kirkpatrick. Marty Valerio will follow up with John Abrahamsen to ascertain if this information could be added to our new webpage.
- 2024 Nomination Committee – Mark Cohen advised that so far, only 4 members have accepted to work on the 2024 nomination committee. They are Frank Nusspickel, Joe Pullaro, Jim Webb, and Dennis LaBarbara. Our Bylaws define the committee as five

members; we are currently one member short. Mark advised that he is working on finding a 5th member.

- Membership – Dave Voehl updated us that as of June 30, 2023, we had 328 members. There has been no response from Grace Ott. The general feeling was that no news, is good news. Harry informed the Board that we will require an increase our the annual dues for 2024. The exact amount will be determined after the 2024 Budget is completed.
- 2024 Spring Luncheon - Unfortunately, Tom Donch was unable the negotiate any price concessions from The Indian Lake Club for our 2024 Spring Luncheon. Their cost increases for our 2024 lunch were exorbitant, making if cost prohibited for our membership. Tom will investigate the pricing at Seasons and the Tides. Follow up is needed.
- Speaker Program – Today, Michael DeVincenzo from the Wyckoff Public Library will talk about Protecting Your Identity Online. No speaker is scheduled for August since there will be no AU Executive Board meeting or General meetings in August.
- The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bernarde, Secretary