

ACTIVITIES UNLIMITED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday September 12, 2023

The Executive Board was called to order by President Harry Bennett, at 9:31 AM at the. The following members were in Midland Park Reformed Church, Midland Park, NJ:

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

Mark Cohen, Past President

Jim Mallen, Liaison to the WRC - Absent

Marty Valerio – Communications Director

- Treasurer's Report - Mike Kelley reviewed the August 2023, Treasurer's Report. Our cash position remains strong. We currently have \$29K on deposit in the various bank accounts. Mike mentioned that our luncheon, at Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY is completely sold out. There are 51 members going and there is a waiting list in case any of the 51 decides on not going. With Harry's approval John Caikowsky took the Trips & Tours team to lunch for a much deserved thank you for all their hard work. Earlier in the year, the AU Board approved a fall luncheon for all Club Chairman and the AU Board (about 30 attendees) for a greatly justified thank you. Now that the Fall is here, this needs to be revisited.
- Annual Breakfast/General Meeting – Tom Donch cheerfully informed the Board that the Brick House is holding to last year's breakfast cost of \$22 per person. Three AU members will speak at the breakfast; these members are paying for their own breakfast; therefore, AU will not incur any additional costs for speakers. The doors open at 8:00 AM for coffee, and breakfast is served at 8:30 and runs to 10:00 AM. Tom made a motion to charge AU members \$18/per member and therefore AU will subsidize \$4/per member. Mike Kelley

seconded this motion, all agreed. Mark Cohen mentioned that volunteers will be needed to check in members as they arrive. Both Doug Cooper and David Voehl volunteered to get there early and assist in checking in members.

- Spring Luncheon – Regrettably, Tom advised that have numerous attempts to negotiate with the Indian Trail Club to lower their 2024 significant cost increases and have our 2024 Spring luncheon there; were unsuccessful. Indian Trails Club were unwilling to more from \$71/per person on Tuesday (our traditional day) and \$51/per person on a Wednesday. These costs represent a significant increase from 2023. The Board finds these costs unpalatable for our members. Portobello’s offers several packages starting at \$32.95/per person. After a brief discussion, all agreed that Portobello was the way to go in 2024. Mike advised Tom that we have a \$500 deposit for 2024 with the Indian Trail Club. Tom assured the Board that he would immediately request a refund.
- Care and Concern – Tony Dilorgi advised that sadly both Hans Sammer an AU member since 2001, and Jack Warner’s wife Anne have regrettably passed. Mike Kelley informed the group that Howard Vogel was very sick at home and that no one was going to make coffee for the General meeting.
- Membership - Dave Voehl informed us that at the month end August 2023 we had 330 members.
- 2024 Budget – The 2024 AU Budget Proposal prepared by Mike and Harry was reviewed. After reviewing the 2024 Budget Proposal, Dave Voehl made a motion to set the 2024 dues at \$60 per member. Rich seconded the motion, all approved. It should be noted that Tom Donch left the meeting earlier and therefore did not vote. Doug Cooper suggested that before we advise members that 2024 dues are going up, we should develop a Marketing plan informing membership about all the positive things that AU will be doing in 2024.
- Communications – Marty informed the group that as Communication Chair, all out going email should be sent to him, before they are distributed to AU membership. Marty enlightened us that work is being done on our webpage to add a link to a new page that will contain: recommended local contractors, news from Valley Hospital, and useful information from Road Scholar. Marty is leading an effort to reconcile AU’s Constitution, By Laws, and procedures. This process is ongoing.
- 2024 Nomination Committee – Mark Cohen informed us that the Nomination Committee has recommended Gaspar Lesnik as 2nd Vice President and Scott Japko as Asst-Treasurer. Both Mike Kelley and Rich Bernarde are willing to serve another year (which would be their third year) as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. The two new Board positions as well as Mike and Rich serving a third year will be voted on by AU’s members.
- Speaker Program – Jack Warner, was scheduled to discuss Italian music and films. However, he called Jim Atieh and advised that his wife was gravely ill at Valley Hospital

and was expected to pass shortly. For the October breakfast, three AU members will tell jokes. For December, the discussion will be on heart disease, the presentation is titled, *This Is Not Your Father's Disease*.

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Bernarde, Secretary