

Newcomers of Catawba Valley
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Adra Kryszczuk, President, at 10:02 a.m. at Patrick Beaver Library. Members present were Adra Kryszczuk, Sonya Reid, Sharon Snellings, Debbie Hindman, Rob Herman and Cathi Montgomery. The following members were absent: Nancy Geiger, Evie Gibson and Kathy Rozea. Amy Chizen was present as a guest. The minutes from the April Board meeting were presented and no corrections or changes were made. Cathi Montgomery made a motion to accept the minutes and Rob Herman seconded the motion. The minutes of the April Board meeting were approved. Cathi Montgomery made a motion to allow guests to speak during the meeting. Debbie Hindman seconded the motion, and it was approved by the Board.

Adra presented the list of speakers for the next four General meetings.

1. Everyone was reminded that the June meeting will be offsite at The Hickory Hub. Cathi will post a Facebook notice and Sharon will notify the Crosswind Café of the change in location.
2. The July meeting will have a speaker from the quarterly charity, Shining Hope Farms, and a brief presentation from Unique World Gifts. Unique World Gifts will also set up a pop-up store for the meeting. Sharon noted that she will be out of town for the July meeting and Adra will coordinate the set up for that meeting.
3. The speaker for the August meeting will be Karen Phoenix with Project C.A.R.E.
4. The September meeting will be an offsite meeting at Paramount Classic Cars.

Membership:

1. Debbie reported that we received six new membership applications during the month of April and three so far in May.
2. Debbie reported that 38 new members had been invited to the new member reception on Tuesday, May 30th from 5:30-8:00. Discussion ensued regarding the use of the Punchbowl invitation app. Decision was made not to purchase a “membership” to Punchbowl for the future. Arrangements were made for purchasing the food and drinks for the reception. Board members were asked to arrive at the airport at 4:30 p.m. to help with the set up.

Secretary: Sharon reported that she will not be able to attend the June BOD meeting.

Treasurer:

1. Sonya reported a current balance of \$5948.62 in the Club’s treasury. She reminded Board members that she has provided each member with access to the current budget and spending report.

2. Decision has been made to delay the start of the birthday card initiative till next January. Spending for that project will occur in December. Total cost of the Derby party was \$782.46.

Charities: Adra reported, on Nancy's behalf, that the 3rd quarter charity will be Shining Hope Farms and someone from that organization will be the speaker at the July General Meeting.

Special Events: Amy Chizen reported the following upcoming events:

May 26 – Crawdad's game (26 members confirmed)

June 4 – Wine & cheese gathering before the play, "Kinky Boots" at Hickory theater

June 11 – Lake Party – picnic at Montgomery's (pontoon optional). The sign-up for this event will include an online registration of what food people are bringing. Board members asked to be at the Montgomery's by 2:30 to assist with set up.

June 30 – 5th Friday Crafters – patriotic gnomes

Future plans:

September 29th – acrylic pour painting event

October 6th – paint & sip (annual event)

October - Amy reported that there is a long-term plan for an event at Maple Grove (Hickory) in October. Speaker will address "Streets of Hickory". 40 person maximum attendance. Specific date still being worked.

Amy will be sending out a survey to the Club to determine interest in a 2-3 day trip to Asheville or Seagrove. Possible Fall activity.

Old Business:

Adra reported that the Club will be ordering 1000 business cards for distribution to any Club member who would like to hand them out as part of our marketing.

The birthday card initiative will begin in January 2024.

New Business:

Rob Herman reported that he and Cindy Zook are willing to start a group with members who are interested in gardening. He proposed an event on July 21st at the Howard Family Farms. The owner will provide a tour of the farm then participants will be allowed to pick their own flowers and Rob and Cindy will conduct a flower arranging tutorial. Participants will be encouraged to bring their own lunch for a picnic afterward and there will be a brief organizational meeting to discuss how this group will operate. The Board approved this new activity/group. Adra requested that Rob prepare a written description of the new activity for the Club records. Rob and Cindy will handle arrangements for the July 21st event.

Rob raised serious concerns with the selection of the Yellow Deli restaurant for the June Lunch Out. He has researched the Twelve Tribes religious organization which owns the restaurant and presented information regarding the fact that this restaurant, along with other businesses owned by the same religious organization, receive 100% of all monies brought through the day-to-day operations. No workers are paid through salaries or tip money. There was extensive discussion among the Board members regarding the longstanding policy that the Club does not sponsor nor support any religious organization and whether the Lunch Out would violate that policy. The following motion was made by Rob: Newcomers will not sponsor the Yellow Deli restaurant as an official Lunch Out event due to the fact that the restaurant is 100% affiliated with a religious organization. Cathi Montgomery seconded the motion and the Board voted 5 to 1 in support of the motion. Adra stated that she would draft a message for Deb Kelso to use to reflect that this would not be a Lunch Out event but that members could choose to go to the restaurant independently as a "Meet Up". The message would recommend that Club members review the restaurant's website prior to attending.

Next General Meeting – Wednesday, June 14th at 10:30 a.m. (The Hickory Hub)

Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, June 28th at 10:00 a.m. (Patrick Beaver Library)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Snellings, Secretary