

FBICC Summer Meeting  
July 24, 2021  
Via Internet

President Winifred Tuschen called the meeting to order at 11:01a.m. CDT. Present were 14 of the 15 board members: Winifred Tuschen, President; Heather Hearn, First Vice President; Joyce Murden, Second Vice President; Janet Guthridge, Past President; Ray Schomas, Treasurer; Laurel Provine, Secretary; Philip Murden, Webmaster; Marilyn Holm, Membership Chairperson; Judy Boyer, Blue Berry Notes Editor and Region 6 Director; Helen Swan, Education Chairperson; Patricia O'Neill, Region 1 Director; Christine Waller, Region 2 Director; Denise Brazelle, Region 3 Director; and Sheila Clark, Region 5 Director. Brenda Meyer, Region 4 Director, did not join the meeting. Also present were Wayne Trowbridge, Region 4 nominee, and Michele Mickelson, Secretary nominee. Winifred welcomed all those present via Zoom and did a brief review of the club's decision to cancel the 2021 convention. She felt that in light of the recent Covid surge in spite of the availability of a vaccine that the board had made the proper decision to safeguard the club's membership.

Each year the FBICEF has a raffle to raise funds for their activities. This year the raffle was held during the Internet Board Meeting as we did not gather for a convention. Ray and Janis Schomas conducted the drawing of the winning tickets. First Prize, an Indian teapot, went to Marilyn Shaver, Second Prize, an Orchid vase, went to Patricia Albright and Third Prize, a Cattle plate, went to Don Iverson. Since the drawing was not in person, Jon Houserman, FBICEF Treasurer, will mail the pieces to the winners.

The minutes of the Mid-Year Meeting had been emailed to the board members prior to this meeting. Laurel Provine, Secretary, asked if there were any questions or corrections to be made. Michele Mickelson noted that her name was misspelled. Janet Guthridge made the motion that the minutes be approved as corrected. Marilyn Holm seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Christine Waller as Nominating Committee Chairperson presented the report from the Nominating Committee. She noted that Michele Mickelson had been

nominated as Secretary at the Mid-Year meeting. Wayne Trowbridge has agreed to become Region 4 Director upon the completion of Brenda Meyer's term this summer. Both Christine Waller and Patricia O'Neill expressed a desire to serve another term as they were not able to fulfill their duties as Directors of Regions 1 and 2. The board agreed that "due to the Covid pandemic and not being able to perform their duties, Christine and Patricia should renew their respective terms as Region 2 and Region 1 Directors." Christine moved to nominate Patricia and Wayne to their respective board positions. Janet seconded the motion. Motion approved. Since the summer convention was cancelled, a general membership meeting could not be held in person. An email blast will be sent to all members requesting a vote of approval for the nominees: Patricia, Wayne and Michele. As a result of these elections, three Directors will be completing their respective terms each year as required in the By-Laws. In 2022, Denise, Sheila, and Judy will complete their terms; and in 2023, Patricia, Christine, and Wayne.

Marilyn Holm has expressed a desire to retire as Membership Chairperson at the end of 2021. Patricia O'Neill has agreed to assume that responsibility. Marilyn and Patricia will work together until January 2022. Sheila Clark moved that Patricia be the new Membership Chairperson. Ray Schomas seconded the motion. Motion carried. This position is Board appointed so no membership vote is required.

Looking to the future, Sheila Clark has agreed to be nominated as First Vice President in 2022 when Heather assumes the Presidency and Janelle Ward has agreed to be nominated as Region 6 Director also in 2022.

Janet Guthridge, Legal Liaison, prepared a letter for the club and sent it to Webspeak requesting a refund of \$1000 for their failure to develop a satisfactory new website for the club. Winifred has not had a response from them. Joel Brosck, attorney, feels that since a binding contract had not been signed with Webspeak, there is little hope of any recovery from them. He advised that a written contract be obtained before a major project be started. He will be happy to review the contract. Janet thanked Phil Murden for seeking out and finding a new webmaster. The new website is now up and running. Pat O'Neill moved that

Janet's report be approved. Marilyn Holm seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ray Schomas, Treasurer, presented the financial report. Since there was no convention this year, there has been very little activity. The club is in good shape with a reserve of more than \$52,000. He reminded the board that the FBICEF pays for the color pages in the BBN as well as a portion of the website. Joyce Murden moved that the report be approved. Sheila Clark seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ray noted that a report will be distributed to the membership via the BBN.

Marilyn Holm, Membership Chairperson, reported that membership has held steady for the year. She is encouraged by this since many similar clubs are experiencing decreasing membership. She thanked Judy Boyer for promoting the club through the Flow Blue Followers Facebook group. There are now more than 1000 followers in the group. Marilyn expressed her appreciation to Patricia O'Neill for agreeing to assume the Membership Chairperson position. (See above discussion.) The board thanked Marilyn for her faithful service of 10 years as chairperson. Helen Swann moved that the report be approved. Ray Schomas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Judy Boyer, Blue Berry Notes editor, requested that the distribution dates of the BBN be adjusted to eliminate the long gap between the distribution of the second and third issues. After a discussion of how the change would affect the convention activities, the board decided that the first and fourth issue distribution dates would remain unchanged; the second issue would be released one week later and the third issue would be distributed in August rather than September. Heather Hearn moved that the report be accepted. Marilyn Holm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Helen Swan, Education Committee Chairperson, reported on the Education Committee activities. The Pattern Identification Database now has 4,067 patterns and the Shapes Database has 1,138 shapes of teapots, creamers, and sugars described. She thanked Eric Brown and Centha Davis for all their work on the PID database. Helen then reviewed the proposed Education Seminar topics for

upcoming conventions. At the 2022 convention, Warren Macy will present “Big” focusing on large pieces of flow blue and mulberry. The committee would like a program on Dalton Potteries for the 2023 convention. A speaker is still being sought. George Wells has agreed to discuss Brush Stroke patterns at the 2024 convention. Heather Hearn will present a program on Alcock in 2025. Helen has noticed that copies of the club’s old shapes book is being sold on ebay. She would like the club to look into the possibility of selling the new version of the club’s shapes book when it is completed. Ray Schomas moved that the report be accepted. Joyce Murden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Phil Murden, Webmaster, was glad to report that the new website is now up and running. It is compatible with smart phones which will make it much more useable by club members than the old website which was not compatible. He has a few more updates to be done. He has been pleased with Ft. Wayne Marketing, the new webmaster. They have made several suggestions of new services and designs, such as automated messages, personal ID’s and passwords, online renewal and other updates. After discussion, the board took no action on these suggestions. Phil suggested that the board make a list of changes or services they would like to see done. Then he will ask Ft. Wayne Marketing to make an estimate of the costs involved with these changes as well as the ones Ft. Wayne Marketing has proposed. The board could then review the proposed changes in light of the estimated costs and other considerations. Jim Swan has expressed a desire to back away from managing the PID program. Before he does, Ft. Wayne Marketing will need to know how the program was developed before taking over management. Marilyn Holm made the motion to approve the report. Patricia O’Neill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ray Schomas presented the report from FBICEF prepared by Jon Houserman, FBICEF Treasurer. The only activity for the fund has been the annual raffle. This year the raffle raised \$2418 which is about \$900 more than the average convention. (See results above.) Janet Guthridge moved to accept the report. Helen Swan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Joyce Murden, Second Vice President, reported on upcoming convention plans. The 2022 convention will be held in Memphis, Tennessee, July 14 to 16. James

McClain is the convention chairman. Two tours will be offered: one to Graceland, Elvis Presley's home, and the other to a Victorian mansion, lunch, and the Rock & Roll Museum. The Thursday evening Meet and Greet will include a soup/sandwich buffet which will give participants more time to visit as they will not have to find a place to eat supper. Ray was asked if the club could incur the cost and it was noted that the convention budget would need to be submitted and reviewed before an answer could be given. The hotel has been newly remodeled and is very nice. In order to reduce time used for the silent auction, the results will be posted rather than announced at the business meeting. Winifred would like some of the board members to be prepared to speak 2 to 3 minutes to introduce more officials to the membership and describe their functions. An effort needs to be made to reduce the size and/or content of the convention/registration booklet in order to save on printing and mailing costs. Judy suggested a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 12 pages. Phil Murden moved the convention booklet be included as a part of an expanded BBN. Heather Hearn moved that Judy Boyer and Joyce Murden work together to reduce the sizes of the convention/registration booklet and the convention welcome packet. Helen Swan seconded the motion. Motion carried. Joyce asked about Regional Baskets for the 2022 convention. A chairperson is needed. Christine noted how important the listing of contents of the baskets is, and the chairperson needs to emphasize the contents be listed. The 2023 convention will be held in Middleton, Wisconsin, on July 20 to 22, 2023. Angie Montpas has agreed to be convention chairperson.

The reports from the Regional Directors were then received:

Patricia O'Neill, Region 1 Director, is planning a Regional Meeting October 1, 2, and 3, 2021, in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. She has planned a full weekend of activities. She will monitor Covid before making a final decision. She sent out Christmas and Spring newsletters.

Christine Waller, Region 2 Director, is planning a Regional Meeting for April 29 and 30, 2022, in East Peoria, Illinois. This will be a combined Regional with Region 4. She sent our Christmas and Spring newsletters.

Denise Brazelle, Region 3 Director, has been sending quarterly newsletters.

Brenda Meyer, Region 4 Director, has had no activity due to Covid. She had planned, along with Christine, to have a Regional Meeting in April 2021. It has been postponed until 2022. Her term as Regional Director ends this July. Wayne Trowbridge has agreed to become Region 4 Director.

Sheila Clark, Region 5 Director, has had health issues and not been able to perform any duties. She and Judy Boyer have discussed a combined regional meeting perhaps to be held in Baton Rouge.

Judy Boyer, Region 6 Director, and Sheila Clark have discussed a combined regional meeting. Mark Armstrong and Murray Weisberg have proposed hosting a regional meeting in Los Angeles when Covid is brought under control. A virtual meeting is also being considered. She reminded the other Directors how important it is to maintain contact with the region's members especially during the Covid pandemic.

Janet Guthridge moved the reports be accepted. Denise Brazelle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Judy Boyer remarked that questions about how to dispose of a personal or inherited collection are frequently received. She has prepared a list of suggestions and would like one or more members to write an article for the BBN. The article could possibly be expanded into a convention seminar. Perhaps a list of questions or suggestions could be prepared for use by Regional Directors when they receive questions. Helen Swan agreed to help Judy.

Jim Swan suggested that when projects are given to Ft. Wayne Marketing or any other service provider for a cost estimate that the cost be estimated on a per job basis and not an open-ended cost per hour.

There being no other business, President Winifred Tuschen called for a motion to adjourn. Ray Schomas made the motion to adjourn. Marilyn Holm seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. CDT.

Respectively submitted,  
Laurel Provine, Secretary