

FBICC Mid-Year Meeting
Via Internet
March 2020

At 10 am EDT on March 14, 2020, President Janet Guthridge called the meeting to order. All board members signed in. President Guthridge gave several comments to bring the board up to date on events concerning the club.

The minutes for the July board meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting via internet. President Guthridge called for corrections or amendments; none were noted. Sheila Clark moved to accept the minutes; Marilyn Holm seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Also included in the Secretary's report were minutes from an interim meeting regarding the cancellation of the Memphis Crowne Plaza Hotel contract due to unsatisfactory conditions at the hotel. The hotel management agreed to cancel the contract without penalty. Another contract has been negotiated by the Convention Committee with the Memphis Hilton for July 9-11, 2020. Christine Waller moved to accept the interim minutes; Mike Vail seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer Ray Schomas presented his report. He noted that while membership income was down, it was more than offset by cost-savings in expenses and FBICEF help with website upgrade, computer replacement, and booklet printing. Both the 2019 auction and convention did well. Also incurred in 2019 were some expenses relating to the 2020 convention hotel changes. The club ended the year with a reserve balance of \$46,589 which is a historical high. Phil Neff moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Denise Brazell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Judy Boyer presented the Blue Berry Notes Report. She has several exciting articles on tap for the year: a first-person account of a Middlebury pottery worker, historical pieces, and a Doulton article. She also noted that she will retire in June which will enable her to have more time to spend on the BBN. She encouraged all members to share their stories of collecting. She included the proposed BBN schedule for 2020. Krueger Printing Company has acquired a new printing machine that enabled them to print a full color front and back page at no additional charge to the club. The Board expressed their approval of the report and the great job Judy is doing.

The Membership Report was given by Marilyn Holm, Membership Chairperson. She noted that even though the total memberships are down from the previous year, the decline has slowed from previous years. With 94% of FBICC members now having email, communication with the membership is easier and cheaper. She utilizes email as much as possible. She thanked the Regional Directors for their work contacting members who failed to renew. The board thanked Marilyn for the very informative report and all the work she does to keep track of the members.

Helen Swan, Education Committee Chair, reported that there are 3,619 patterns and 720 shapes in the FBICC database. The planned education programs at upcoming conventions include: in 2020 Warren Macy with "Big", in 2021 Heather Alexander will teach about John Alcock, and in 2022 George Wells will talk about brushstroke. The Shapes database will add children's patterns in tea ware this year. Sheila Clark moved to accept the Education Committee Report; Christine Waller seconded. The motion carried.

Phil Murden, Webmaster, reported he is continuing to work on the website both updating it and eliminating old information. He is working with WebMedia to finish developing a new website while maintaining both the old and new web pages. He hopes to have the new site in production sometime late March 2020. The Board thanked Phil for all his work and approved his report.

Ray Schomas presented the Flow Blue International Collectors' Education Fund (FBICEF) report prepared by Jon Houserman. To date the FBICEF has provided 13 educational booklets for the FBICC membership. It also has supported the BBN with color pages, the Education Committee projects, the club website, and some convention costs. The 2019 convention fundraising efforts were successful and increased the cash reserve to over \$10,000. The group will continue the silent auction, raffle, and reserve seating/baskets fundraising activities.

Phil Neff reminded the board that during the July 2019 board meeting a motion was approved that he was to prepare the proper motions in order to implement changes in the By-Laws to eliminate the Legal Liaison position on the board and to add those duties to the Past President. Therefore he has prepared two amendments to be presented to the general membership to be voted upon at the July 2020 General Membership meeting. "Proposed Admendment #1: Add a new Section 4, Duties of Past President, to Article V: Board of Directors, as follows: The Past President shall perform the duties of legal advisor/liaison, shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors, and shall attend meetings of the Board, and obtain legal advice for the Board as to Club matters, upon request. Legal advisor/liaison responsibilities will be to obtain and convey professional legal advice to the Board from available sources as requested and as applicable." In addition, he stated a second amendment should be voted upon at the same time. "Proposed Amendment #2: Remove references to Legal Advisor/Liaison from the By-Laws in the following places: 1. Remove Article V, Section 3, paragraph d. Legal Advisor in its entirety. 2. Remove "and Legal Advisor/Liaison" from Article V: Board of Directors. Section 1. Composition of Board. 3. Remove "and a Legal Advisor/Liaison . . ." from Article V, Section 2, paragraph a. so that paragraph a. reads as follows: a. BOARD APPOINTMENTS. The Board of Directors shall appoint the Newsletter Editor, the Membership Chairperson, the Education Committee Chairperson, and Webmaster/Website Committee Chairperson to the Board of Directors. Such appointments shall be for an indefinite period and subject to termination by Board action." Pat O'Neill moved to approve the two proposed amendments and to submit them to the membership for approval. Denise Brazell seconded the motion. Motion carried

President Guthridge then called for the Regional Directors reports:

Pat O'Neill (Region 1) reported that she is planning a regional meeting in the Brandywine PA area in October.

Christine Waller (Region 2) is planning a regional meeting on May 1st and 2nd in Illinois. Because of the CoVID-19 concerns she is unsure whether it can be held. She has contacted the hotel and they are willing to waive any financial penalties. No 2021 meeting is planned as she will be busy chairing the convention auction. Her term as director ends in 2021 so she is seeking a replacement.

Denise Brazell (Region 3) reported that the proposed 2020 regional meeting had to be cancelled when the host's home sold. She has received two offers to host the 2021 regional meeting. These will be discussed further at the convention regional meeting.

Mike Vail (Region 4) submitted his resignation due to his duties as his mother's executor and the lack of time to devote to the club as he would like. Several suggestions were made as a possible replacement.

Sheila Clark (Region 5) noted that due to the corona virus the regional meeting for Regions 5 and 6 planned for later in March in Albuquerque NM has been cancelled. She has notified everyone who registered. No plans are being made to reschedule. She is waiting to see how the virus pandemic evolves.

Judy Boyer prepared a report for Region 6 as the directorship is currently vacant. Kim Boyer, the past director, contacted the Region 6 members who had not renewed and was successful in getting 5 of the 6 to renew. They had planned a combined regional with Region 5 but it was cancelled due to the corona virus. Judy suggested that due to the large size of the region and comparatively few members a realignment of the region boundaries might be beneficial. She proposed either reducing the size of Region 6 or disbanding it and it being absorbed by other regions. These proposals will be discussed later in the meeting in New Business.

Joyce Murden, Second Vice-President and Convention Search Committee Chairperson, reported on the 2020 convention at the Memphis Hilton Hotel. James McClain has the convention planned and is ready to go. However the committee has approached the hotel to reduce the minimums in their contract due to an expected decrease in attendees because of the corona virus or to cancel the contract. The hotel felt it was premature to discuss these suggestions but did agree to extend the date of cancellation until May 9. Phil Neff suggested that no contract be signed for 2022 and that the possibility of rescheduling for 2022 be used as a negotiating term.

Joyce further reported the 2021 convention will be held at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton, Wisconsin. Angie Montpas is the chairperson and Marnie Kranik will help with the tour. The hotel manager provided to the Club a grant application for first-time groups from the Middleton tourism bureau.

She has begun looking at hotels in Detroit, Dayton, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Springfield, St. Louis and Sharonville, KY as possible sites for the 2022 convention. She will not make any decision about 2022 until the 2020 convention has been settled. The board accepted her report and thanked her for all her hard work especially in such a trying year.

Christine Waller, as senior regional director and thereby Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, gave the report from the nominating committee. She stated 2 officer positions (Secretary and 1st Vice-President) need to be filled and 2 regional directors (Regions 4 and 6). Mike Vail (Region 4) has resigned because of personal commitments and the others have fulfilled their terms. She asked for suggestions for possible nominees.

In New Business, Judy Boyer asked the Board to consider realigning the regional areas. When the FBICC was first formed, the membership base was divided into six regions with Region 6 being much smaller than presently and Regions 2, 3, 4, and 5 larger. At some time in the past they were redistributed into the current divisions. She proposed discontinuing Region 6 and redistributing the remaining five regions. This would bring the remaining five regions into a more nearly equal

population in terms of club membership and solve the problem of trying to find a Region 6 director. Such redistricting would require By-law changes. The decision was made to poll the members regarding the proposed change before a By-Laws amendment is prepared. Janet appointed Marilyn, Judy and Sheila to study the proposal and design a poll to be sent out by Marilyn to the membership. After the polling has been done, the results will be discussed at the July convention meeting.

Lee Ann Wisman has offered to create and manage an Instagram page on behalf of the FBICC with assistance from Jennifer Williams. A description of Instagram was given for those not familiar with it. Ray Schomas raised the question of any sort of liability falling on the club. The general consensus from those familiar with Instagram was that no liability would fall on the club as the account would not be managed by the club. Winifred Tuschen made the motion to support an Instagram page with careful monitoring using guidelines obtained from the Flow Blue Followers facebook page. Sheila Clark seconded the motion. Phil Neff suggested the page start with the Facebook guidelines and he will prepare an Acceptable Use Policy and have it reviewed by Joel Brosck, the FBICC Legal Advisor. Phil Neff restated the motion that FBICC start an FBICC Instagram account to be managed initially by Lee Ann and incorporating acceptable use guidelines as approved by our legal counsel to manage the Club's liability. Sheila Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried. There was some discussion whether FBICC should have an official Facebook page. The discussion was tabled until July.

At 3:32 pm EDT President Guthridge asked if there were any more discussion of these items or any other new business. There being none, Marilyn Holm moved to adjourn. Sheila Clark seconded the motion. The motion carried. Our President declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurel Provine, Secretary