

FLOW BLUE INTERNATIONAL COLLECTORS' CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Mid-Year; 3-30 Apr 2017

ELECTRONIC/EMAIL MEETING

John Provine called the meeting to order via email notification on 3 Apr 17. Meeting to follow a pre-submitted agenda item list of items 1-16 with each member given 24 hours to add comments followed by 24 hours to approve each agenda item.

Members Participating: John Provine (President), Vacant (1st Vice President), Joyce Murden (2nd Vice President), Ray Schomas (Treasurer), Heather Hearn (Secretary), Brenda Meyer (Past President), Marilyn Holm (Membership Chair), Judy Boyer (BB Notes Editor), Jon Houserman (Legal Advisor), Helen Swan (Education Chairperson), Philip Murden (Webmaster), Dave Crumb (Region I), Eric Lee (Region II), Winifred Tuswchen (Region III), Rosalie Angle (Region IV), Susanna Pickle (Region V), Kim Boyer (Region VI).

1. John Provine opened the meeting. As this was held as an email/electronic/internet meeting, no proxies were required.

2. Secretary's Report: Heather Hearn requested approval of annual board minutes. Content correction was Eric Lee would negotiate the contract for the 2018 convention only and not additional conventions at this time. Administrative corrections were submitted (no additional content change) and made. Minutes approved by majority board member approval.

3. Treasurer's Report: Ray Schomas presented the mid-year 2017 financial report; pre-convention. Due to cost reductions and efforts to adjust club expenditures Ray as submitted a budget that proposes a minimum surplus of \$5738. This surplus could adjust based on other cost saving initiatives implemented through the remainder of the fiscal year. Ray also emphasized that while this will support the club and prove beneficial for the next two years, the club must continue to aggressively recruit new members as well as address declining convention attendance and auction results. Approval of the report was requested by Helen Swan and seconded by Joyce Murden; approved.

4. Membership Report: Marilyn Holm provided the membership report as of 15 March 2017. There are a total of 640 members (374 memberships) which is a 6% decrease from 2016. Marilyn reported the decrease in the roster from 64 pages to 36 pages would produce a positive financial return but is also hopeful it does not signal to membership that there has been a significant decrease in members. Approval of report requested by Kim Boyer, second by John Houserman; approved.

5. Blue Berry Notes Report: Judy Boyer presented an update on the BBN. The board had previously approved the reduction in annual BBNs from 5 to 4 with 2017 being the first full year of this change. The membership is now also being notified of the posting of the BBNs to the website by a mass email. The intention is to not only keep membership aware of the new BBN but to also increase use, familiarity and traffic to the website. Editor Boyer also proposed an increase of 24 to 28 pages for the BBN immediately following the annual convention.

Ray Schomas and Marilyn Holm requested approval of report and increase in post-convention BBN to 28 pages; approved.

6. Education Committee Report: Helen Swan stated the current ID database is at 3325. Jackie Casey is now in charge of the Pattern ID project. The 2017 Education Committee presentation and booklet is “Small Flow Blue and Mulberry Bathware Treasures” presented by Kim Boyer, Helen Swan and Betty Reed. Ellen King will present in 2018 on Scottish Potteries and Heidi Wolfe is considering a presentation in 2019 on Daulton Potteries.

7. Website/Webmaster Report: Philip Murden discussed the current website efforts including uploading auction pictures for all members to preview before the auction which appears to have been well received by the membership. Based on using various statistical programs the webmaster was able to report a 15% increase of visitors to the website but an approximately 11% decrease in returning visitors. Several board members suggested option for obtaining additional statistical input to determine the most popular/visited portions of the webpage. The webmaster also reported he reviewed the website for current content and encouraged all board members to review the website and provide updates as well as items for upload. The webmaster accomplished multiple uploads of items/articles this year.

8. FBICEF Report: John Houserman provided an update the FBICEF. While the intended minimum reserve is approximately \$5000, FBICEF for 2017 is currently \$7289 which is a significant benefit to the club and membership. Through donations, annual raffle, seats for the auction and the silent auction the FBICEF raised approximately \$4400 in 2016 for the fund and anticipates a similar result in 2017. John Houserman reported that the membership has been exceptionally generous however the fund has recently had to purchase 1-2 items for the 3 item annual raffle.

9. Regional Director Reports: Each regional director reported contacting member who had not renewed with a consistent response from those not renewing that that reason was due to not collecting anymore or financial/health issues that prevented traveling and/or continued interest in remaining in the club. Some directors were able to obtain a few late renewals through the direct telephone contact.

a. Region 1: Dave Crumb reported hosting the regional meeting in Rhinebeck NY with 21 members attending. The current regional membership was reported at 130 members. At the regional meeting an auction was held to benefit the FBICEF and raised \$320. Region 1 is also planning a week-long trip to England to visit the potteries from 8-14 Oct 17. This is open to all FBICC members.

b. Region 2: Eric Lee reported he is planning a regional meeting for 5-6 May 17 in Frankenmuth MI and estimates at least 27 members will be in attendance.

c. Region 3: Winifred Tuschen reported she is planning a regional for fall 2017 and will be discussing more specifics at the annual FBICC convention with the regional membership in attendance.

d. Region 4: Rosalie Ingle a joint 4, 5 and 6 regional was held in Las Vegas NV. She has also identified a possible host for a 2017 regional.

e. Region 5: Susanna Pickle reported a joint 4, 5, 6 regional was held in Las Vegas NV. She also reported she has a potential host for a regional in Baton Rouge in 2018 but is entertaining suggestions for a good date to host this regional as well as suggestions for activities.

f. Region 6: Kim Boyer reported a joint 4, 5, 6 regional was held in Las Vegas NV. He stated that there are currently 51 members in the region.

10. 2017 Convention Report: Phil and Cindy Neff agreed to take over as the convention chairs for the Columbus OH convention, 20-23 July 17. Co-chairs report that agenda items have been completed except for finalization of menu items (pending, not behind schedule) and finding a shipping company. The board greatly appreciates Cindy and Phil being able and willing to accept this role and are very grateful for their exceptional efforts.

11. 2018 Convention Report: Eric Lee was able to successfully negotiate a contract for the 2018 convention to be located in Davenport Iowa at the Isle Casino. The convention will be 25-28 Jul 2018. Eric provided a list of the successful contract negotiation items to include favorable room rates of approximately \$90/nt. There was extended discussion regarding potential chairs for the convention with Loralee and Alan Adams, Jan Kobach (and group), Joe and Kay Siblik, Mike Vail, and Peter and Peter and Christine Waller all suggested as possible chairpersons to be contacted. The decision to address a possible chair/co-chair was tabled for further discussion.

12. 2019 Convention Report: Joyce Murden provided a spread sheet of the efforts to date to obtain a possible site for the 2019 convention. Springfield IL, Detroit, Indianapolis, Pittsburg and Memphis TN were all provided as possible options with various opinions and suggested expressed regarding the merits of various locations. There was also a general discussion regarding finding “smaller” cities that might still be able to support the club as well as considering holding the annual convention every two years. After further discussion and the consideration of the financial impact to the club on lost club revenue (annual auction income) the board tabled the idea of changing the annual convention to every other year until there is further justification for such a change. Joyce Murden has the board inputs to use for further refinement of potential sites for 2019 convention and will resubmit/submit proposals to several of the more promising locations with an update for follow before or at the annual board meeting in July.

13. Nominating Committee Activation: President Provide activated the FBICC by-laws for the nominating committee which is made up of the Regional Directors and chaired by the longest service Regional Director (Region 2, Eric Lee). The following positions will need nominations/to be filled: 1st VP, Secretary, Region 1, Region 2, Region 4 and Region 6. Additionally, the board will need to appoint a legal advisor liaison to replace Jon Houserman. The following were suggested for the various positions:

1st VP:

Secretary: Heidi Wolfe, Eric Brown, Centha Davis

Region 1: David Crumb (2nd term)

Region 2: Christine Waller, Dave Preston, Kaye Siblik, Marilyn Thompson

Region 4: Rosalie Ingle (2nd term, agreed to serve)

Region 6: Kim Boyer (2nd term, agreed to serve)

Legal Advisor:

Additionally, Mike Vail and Janet Guthridge were suggested as individuals who might be willing to serve one of the vacant positions.

14. 2017 July Board Meeting Dinner: John Provine provided the option of considering having the annual board meeting on-site and the meal through the hotel. After some discussion it was proposed that the “Fastrak” menu be used with FBICC paying for the board meal. The motion was proposed by Eric Lee, second by Marilyn Holm with the majority of board members agreeing; approved.

15. Other Business: John Provine provided the following as potential additional business items:

a. Ways to increase membership: Kim Boyer requested board members compile items for discussion at July annual meeting but did request consideration of ways to increase family participation. There followed a discussion about encouraging (younger) attendees such as children events and education opportunities as well as convention locations that led to family involvement/vacations (Grey Wolfe Lodge type locations, family vacations such as Branson MO, etc). A “tea-party” feature was also suggested with Winifred Tuschen suggested to lead this educational consideration

b. Combining board member positions

c. Auction door prizes (process, timing, etc); Kim Boyer requested removal of this discussion item as it is an auction committee function and there is already a plan for 6 prizes during the 2017 auction with timing 3 before and 3 after the dinner

d. Increasing FBICC visible social media presence

e. Expanding BBN and/or website version

f. Other suggestions from board members

i. Ray Schomas suggested combining convention events (Tops and Bottoms, Bluetique, and Crossover collections); this item for further discussion at 2017 convention for possible implementation at future conventions but not 2017.

Winifred Tuschen and Marilyn Holm nominated to end discussion with further discussion tabled for annual board meeting in July; approved.

16. Meeting adjourned: John Provine adjourned the meeting on 30 Apr 17 via email per above nomination and approval by board members. The annual board meeting will be held at the Columbus OH convention on Wednesday 19 Jul 17 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Respectfully submitted,

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Heather Hearn, Secretary

4 Jun 17

FBICC OPEN ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
23 JULY 2016
RENAISSANCE ST. LOUIS AIRPORT HOTEL
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Called to order at 1:00 PM by Brenda Meyer, President.

The slate of officers for 2016-2017 was presented to the membership and additional nominations were solicited; none from the assembled membership. (Judy Stevens moved, Marilyn Holms 2nd). Slate of officers approved by membership as follows: John Provine (President), Ken Brock (1st Vice President, and 2017 Convention Co-chair), Joyce Murden (2nd Vice President), Brenda Meyer (Past President), Ray Schomas (Treasurer), Heather Hearn (Secretary), Dave Crumb (Region 1), Eric Lee (Region 2), Winifred Tuschen (Region 3), Rosalie Ingle (Region 4), Susanna Pickle (Region 5), Kim Boyer (Region 6). Board Appointed – Marilyn Holm (Membership Chair), Judy Boyer (Newsletter Editor), Phil Murden (Webmaster), Helen Swan (Education Chair), Jon Houserman (Legal Liaison).

Brenda presented a review of the year's activities and initiatives to include the success of the "Blue Plate Special" and first time convention attendee discount. Also discussed were the on-going initiatives by the board to ensure the club grows and adapts to changing financial and interest climate while still providing a valuable resource to its membership. The Extravaganza initiative was highlighted as a particularly visible and immediate change.

Ray Schomas, Treasurer, presented a brief synopsis of the club's financial status. He noted that membership numbers are down slightly over last year with approximately 650 current memberships. Ray also described the multiple ways the financial report is presented and reviewed including the annual report, publication in the BBNs and quarterly report to FBICC board and financial committee. The treasurer noted a loss of \$4K in 2015 with expense prediction a recurring challenge particularly with the variable of convention attendance. There is an anticipated loss in 2016, but 2017 is predicted to be a more balanced budget due to initiatives and convention cost negotiations. It was noted the board is working to address new expense control initiatives while there is still a reserve of \$38K. The educational fund continues to finance the color pages for the BBN and other special club expenses.

Brenda thanked Katrina for her dedication and exceptional work during her time on the board. She also encouraged all attendees to keep engaged and informed about happenings in the club.

John Provine was introduced as the new FBICC President. He reiterated the need for all members to participate in some way in the club and looks forward to working with the board and membership.

The theme for the 2017 Convention, Crowne Plaza Columbus North, 20-22 July, is "Sail Into Columbus".

The annual FBICC annual membership meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
//signed//
Heather Hearn, Secretary
29 July 2016