

Flow Blue International Collectors' Club
2018 Mid-Year Internet Meeting
March 1, 2018 to April 5, 2018

Call to Order: On March 1, President John Provine called the meeting to order by asking each board member to check in by typing onto the thread to make sure all members were ready to begin and to establish that the proper email addresses were being used. Signing on were Marilyn Holm, Winifred Tuschen, Phil Neff, Joyce Murden, Phil Murden, Christine Waller, Judy Boyer, Ray Schomas, Janet Guthridge, Susanna Pickle, Kim Boyer, Rosalie Ingle, Dave Crumb, Brenda Meyer, and Laurel Provine. No response was received from Helen Swan. She signed in later, bringing participation to 100%.

Minutes of 20 July 2017 Board Meeting: The minutes were distributed via email to all members of the board. Christine Waller noted that the "Quad Cities" actually consist of 5 cities so East Moline was added to the list of Quad Cities. She also noted that the table displays for the convention would be titled "Show Me Your Fours" in honor of the Quad Cities. Marilyn noted that Susanna Pickle's name had been misspelled. Judy pointed out that Pittsburg is spelled with an "h" resulting in Pittsburgh. A corrected set of minutes was distributed to the board. Kim Boyer made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected, Ray Schomas seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Ray Schomas distributed the Treasurer's Report along with comments describing the reasoning behind the figures. Discussion ensued whether the registration fee for 2018 should be lowered by \$10 or \$20 because of the very favorable contract with the Isle Casino and Hotel. Helen Swan made the motion to reduce the registration fee \$10 to \$125 for early registration and \$135 for late. Kim Boyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Membership Report: Marilyn Holm's report was distributed. She added that a new member from Australia had just joined and that Region 6 had just lost a member. She also stated that in lieu of mailing an entire year of the BBN when a new member joins mid-year, Judy will only mail the current issue since the previous issues are on the web site. This will save postage as well as requiring fewer issues to be printed. Marilyn also wished for the board to consider suggestions for increasing membership. Judy explained the ways she promotes the club on the Flow Blue Facebook page. There was considerable success as the result of an article in the Antique Trader magazine. The consensus was that this should be continued if possible. Judy also shared a report she receives from Facebook that lists membership by location and age. It was suggested that the Facebook members be invited to attend a regional meeting as a way to encourage membership. Judy was encouraged to continue her postings on the Flow Blue Facebook page to generate interest in the club and collecting flow blue. Joyce Murden made the motion to accept Marilyn's report; Phil Neff seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Blue Berry Notes Report: Judy Boyer's report was distributed to the board. She explained that she is willing to continue as editor through 2019 and asked that the board consider her replacement. She was applauded for her outstanding work as editor and promoter of the club. All agreed that she will be difficult to replace. Ray made the motion to accept her report; Kim Boyer seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Webmaster's Report: Phil Murden's report was distributed to the board. He discussed the need to have a "secure site certification". The initial certification cost would be \$300 then \$150 annually. The board voted to approve the proposed upgrades necessary for the secure certification.

FBICEF Report: Ray Schomas presented information about the Education Fund to the Board. New officers for the Education fund have been elected. Katrina Franklin replaced resigning President Bill Wetherton, Jim Nicks was elected Director to replace Bill Wetherton. Bob and Bonne Hohl have served many years as the fund raising chairmen and expressed their desire to retire after the 2018 convention. Jim and Betty Nicks will assist the Hohls for 2018 and assume the duties of chairmen of fund raising after the 2018 convention. Ray expressed gratitude to the club members for their generosity through the years for donations with \$90,000 anticipated by year-end. These funds have been used to provide color pages in the BBN and educational booklets for distribution to club members as well as some convention expenses. Joyce Murden asked a question about using some of the funds for scholarship for students. Ray reported Jon Houserman's response that the wording of the articles of incorporation require that funds be used for expenses "directly related to the publication and distribution of education materials and information regarding antique flow blue and mulberry china". Thus the likelihood of scholarship funding is small due to the restrictive nature of the articles of incorporation and lack of significant funds. The board expressed their thanks to the dedicated members of the FBICEF.

Regional Director's Report—Region 1: Dave Crumb reported on the trip to England's Historic Potteries made by 17 people in October 2017. The trip was a great success and enjoyed by all. A full report will be made at the 2018 convention as a seminar. If sufficient interest is shown, a second trip may be planned for the future. A regional meeting will be held in Auburn, NY, on April 6 and 7, 2018. A fund raising auction for FBICEF, table sales, show and tell, and a trip to the William Seward mansion are planned.

For reporting convenience, the Education Committee was presented next.

Education Committee Report: Helen Swan reported that the Shapes Data Base is nearly ready to be launched on the web site. There are 500 shapes represented including 3 never before seen. The schedule for education seminars at the upcoming convention was presented: 2018, Scottish Pottery; 2019, possibly LaBelle/Warwick or Gaudy Welsh; 2020, Dalton or Gaudy Welsh. She also reported that 3327 patterns have been identified on the Pattern ID data base. The report was approved by the board.

Regional Director's Reports—Region 2: Christine Waller presented the Region 2 report. Since Region 2 is hosting the 2018 convention, no regional meeting for 2018 is planned. She is looking at several possible locations for a 2019 meeting. The report was approved by the board.

2018 Bettendorf, Iowa, Convention Report: Christine Waller, convention chairperson, has made arrangements for the Thursday pre-convention tour to visit the John Deere plant, show room and 2 Deere homes. (Moline IL is the home offices of the John Deere machinery company.) Lunch will be aboard a boat with a narrated tour of the Quad Cities section of the Mississippi River. Seminars will be Scottish pottery, a report on the Staffordshire Potteries tour, and Rare and Unusual. The hotel does not have an efficient way to serve ice cream so, after polling the board, she decided to change the Ice Cream Social to Meet and Greet with cheese and vegetable trays and a cash bar. The raffle and silent auction will be held under the umbrella of the Shriners of Davenport IA in order to conform to Iowa gambling laws. In order to conform to Iowa alcohol laws, all alcoholic beverages must be served by hotel staff. This means that people may not bring drinks they have poured themselves into the meeting rooms. Attendees will need to be informed of the state laws. Scooters, packing and mailing services, and publicity have been arranged. The process for reducing registration fees for first timers was reviewed. Rather than the club giving such a large discount in the fee, the first timers will receive coupons to be

used at the Extravaganza or Bluetique. Vendors will be reimbursed by the Club. Christine is looking forward to a great convention. Ray has reviewed the costs of the selected meals and the proposed Meet and Greet with cake, finger foods, hot and cold beverages and a cash bar. All are within budget. Marilyn moved that the convention report with the proposed changes to the Meet and Greet be approved. Ray seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Webmaster's Report Revisited: Jim Swan and Phil Murden proposed securing the club data bases just as they had done for the web site. (Funding approved previously during this meeting.) After ascertaining that these procedures were not a duplication of the previous measures, the board approved to take the necessary precautions to protect the club's data bases also.

Regional Director's Report—Region 3: A Regional meeting was held in St. Augustine, Florida, the first weekend in March. Fifteen members from 3 regions attended and enjoyed a fun-filled weekend. Winifred said that when she had contacted members who had not renewed their memberships the responses usually were "not collecting anymore, downsizing, too old to travel". She feels this points out a common problem for all regions in the club. One suggestion brought forward was to extend regional meetings to non-members or to families of members to try to garner interest among younger people. The report was approved by the board.

Regional Director's Reports—Region 6: Kim Boyer reported that Region 6 had 8 members who did not renew. After he contacted them, four did renew. No regional is planned for 2018, but he is working on a gathering in the Northwest for local members. The report was approved.

Regional Director's Reports—Region 4: Rosalie Ingle reported that she had had success contacting 8 members who decided to renew their memberships. She will be sending out a newsletter in April requesting help with the region 3 basket. In May she will present 2 seminars on flow blue to area meetings. The report was accepted.

Regional Director's Reports—Region 5: Susanna Pickle reported that her father has been very ill and she has not had time to deal with any Director's duties. Everyone wished her and her father well.

Regional Baskets at 2018 Convention: Some discussion about the size and complexity of the Regional Baskets was held. The general consensus was that the baskets should be simplified in size to accommodate potential purchasers that may have flown to the convention. Winifred Tuschen volunteered to coordinate the collection and display of the baskets—now totes. Beside regional specialties she suggested small pieces of flow blue or gift cards. One aspect of the Iowa alcohol laws that might affect the gift totes is that alcohol may not be brought into the hotel and consumed there. Thus a purchaser of a tote cannot consume any alcoholic beverage it may contain in any public portion of the hotel. It was suggested that if wine, etc. is included in a tote that it be accompanied by a note that it may not be consumed in any public area of the hotel, i.e. a meeting room. Another suggestion was that the alcohol in the totes be purchased from the hotel but that may not be possible and still represent a specific region. Christine expressed her thanks to Winifred to helping transport, arrange, and display the regional totes. John Provine thanked everyone on the board for their excellent discussion and ideas.

2019 Convention Report: John Provine announced that Joyce Murden and her committee have obtained a favorable contract from the DoubleTree Hilton, Pittsburgh-Green Tree for 2019 convention.

He announced that Patricia O’Neill from Region 1 (Lansdale, PA) has agreed to chair the convention. Everyone on the board was delighted to welcome her and offer any assistance she needs. Phil Neff moved to accept Pat as the 2019 convention chairman. Winifred Tuschen seconded the motion, motion carried.

2020 Convention Report: Joyce Murden presented the three hotels that she felt had the best options for the convention in 2020. John and Bette Kirk visited the two hotels in the Memphis area. (The third hotel is in Springfield, IL where the club had the 2014 convention.) They thought the Crowne Plaza, Memphis East best fit the club’s needs. Joyce’s recommendation was to approve the Crowne Plaza, Memphis East for the convention if a suitable contract could be achieved. The board overwhelming approved her committee going forward to secure a beneficial contract with Crowne Plaza, Memphis East. John Provine asked for suggestions for a chairperson for that convention.

Nominating Committee: John Provine reviewed the various board positions and those persons currently holding these positions: 2018 Slate of Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Current Holder</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Term (2 years) Limit</u>
President	Janet Guthridge	July 2018 to July 2020	1 term
First Vice-President	TBD	July 2018 to 2020	1 term
Second Vice-President	Joyce Murden		No limit on term
Past President	John Provine	July 2018 to 2020	1 term
Treasurer	Ray Schomas		No limit on term
Secretary	Laurel Provine	July 2017 to July 2019	2 terms
Webmaster	Phil Murden	Board Appointed	
Membership Chair	Marilyn Holm	Board Appointed	
BBN Editor	Judy Boyer	Board Appointed	
Education Chair	Helen Swan	Board Appointed	
Legal Advisor/Liaison	Phil Neff	Board Appointed	
Region 1 Director	Dave Crumb	July 2017 to July 2019 (2nd term)	2 terms
Region 2 Director	Christine Waller	July 2017 to July 2019 (1st term)	2 terms
Region 3 Director	Winifred Tuschen	July 2016 to July 2018 (1st term)	2 terms
Region 4 Director	Rosalie Ingle	July 2018 to July 2019 (2nd term)	2 terms
Region 5 Director	Susanna Pickle	July 2016 to July 2018 (2ndterm)	2 terms
Region 6 Director	Kim Boyer	July 2017 to July 2019 (2nd term)	2 terms

Joyce Murden and Ray Schomas both agreed to continue in their current positions as well as all the board appointed board members. Winifred Tuschen agreed to continue as Region 3 director for a second term. The only positions left to be filled are First Vice-President and Region 5 Director. Susanna Pickle as the director with the longest board membership is chairman of the Nominating Committee and her committee members are the other Regional Directors. They are to report to the board at the July meeting a roster of proposed candidates for the open positions.

Board Meeting Dinner: At the 2016 July board meeting, in an effort to reduce expenses, the hotel catered board dinner was eliminated. In the interest of continuity and time-saving, the hotel-catered board meal was reinstated for 2017. In view that the club has a very favorable contract and a possible surplus for 2018, John Provine asked for a motion, second and vote to continue the practice of a hotel-

catered meal during the 2018 board meeting. Kim Boyer moved and Marilyn Holm seconded. Motion carried.

William Miller Service Award: Each year nominations are solicited from the membership of names of members who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to support the club. The nomination forms are included in the convention registration packets and are to be returned to the Past President. Last year two deserving couples, Phil and Cindy Neff and Frank and Ginny Mueller, were recognized. The convention chair will include the nomination form in the registration packet mailing. The board decided that the award will be given if an appropriate nomination is received; it is not required to give the award every year.

Other Business: Judy Boyer requested board approval for copies of "Detecting Restorations", an education committee publication to be included in her packet for First Timers. The board approved the use of any remaining booklets and printing more if needed.

No other business was brought to the board's attention. Thus President John Provine called for adjournment. Brenda Meyer made the motion to adjourn and Janet Guthridge seconded it. Motion carried. The internet meeting was adjourned on April 5, 2018.

Respectively submitted,

Laurel Provine, Secretary