

FLORIDA GULF COAST COUPLES, INC.

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MINUTES ¹ OF FGCC OPERATING BOARD MEETING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2008 at 10:30 AM. HOME OF CHAIR COUPLE – AMY AND LAURIE

PRESENT:

Amy and Laurie, Melissa and Kim, Marta and Linda, and Ted and John. Member Services Couple Nicole and Elizabeth were not able to be present at this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2008 MEETING:

Board Members will review the August 2008 minutes and e-mail their approval to the Vice Chair as soon as they are able to thoroughly review them.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Finance couple Marta and Linda handed out a monthly statement of balance. Due to submission of dinner dance fees, the balance has increased recently.

PRIORITY BUSINESS:

- I. Annual Dinner Dance
 - a. There are currently 56 RSVPs for the dinner dance.
 - b. John of Ted is planning to utilize 8 tables for the dance, instead of the previously estimated 10. This will give more space in the room for dancing and mingling.
 - c. John of Ted will be purchasing floor balloon bouquets and candle centerpieces for decorations.
 - d. John and Ted asked for volunteers to meet them at Party City at East Bay Drive and US Hwy 19 with a large vehicle or truck in order to transport the large amount of decorations from that location. Amy and Laurie volunteered.
 - e. Kim of Melissa will check with our contact Julie at the Radisson to ask whether decorating committee can have access to the Junior Ballroom to decorate at 4pm.

¹ Formal actions by the Board appear in bold face.

- f. A couple will be posted outside the Junior Ballroom to check couples into the dance when they arrive and hand out entrée tags. Amy of Laurie volunteered to make the entrée tickets for the event.
- g. DJ – The board members discussed song choices for the event. Amy of Laurie asked board members to email her with song choices so that they can relay these to the DJ by his requested deadline. The DJ has already been paid \$100 as a retainer and another \$250 will be paid at the event. DJ requests payment in cash.
- h. Cake – Kim of Melissa will be asking Nicole and Elizabeth if they are bringing the cake for the event themselves, or if alternate arrangements need to be made.
- i. Ted of John announced that they would like to give each table's centerpiece away at the event. An item will be taped to the bottom of one chair at each table to identify the winner.
- j. FGCC Cookbooks will be brought to the event as an additional fundraising opportunity.
- k. Amy and Laurie will consider introducing the "barn dance" at the event as an opportunity for others to socialize and dance with a variety of people.
- L. Kim of Melissa volunteers to fax the new layout of the event room to Julie. Kim also reminded board that a check for the venue is due immediately prior to the event.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Member Renee of Donna was a guest at the meeting. She has created and constructed a template for uniform signs, which can be carried during next year's St. Pete Pride celebration by FGCC members. The board voted to purchase 25 of these signs at this time. The board also decided to organize a "numbers party" early next year to cut out numbers representing the years couples have been together. Renee will submit a receipt for materials used in this project to the board for reimbursement at her earliest convenience. The board wishes to thank Renee for her time and beautiful work on the Pride sign project.

B. FGCC 2008 Holiday Party – This year's Holiday party will be held on December 13 at the Francis House. John of Ted will consider a theme for this event. Last year's donation of \$150 plus a \$50 tip to an assistant provided by the Francis House was used as a measure of this year's venue expenses. Board will discuss budget for food and food item options with Elizabeth of Nicole, who works at a local food market.

C. Membership Renewals: Kim of Melissa will finish follow up calls with current member couples that have not renewed. Amy reported that she sent out reminders about renewals at the same time as the Annual Dinner Dance RSVP's. It is noted that non-renewals include 1 couple due in May, 2 couples from June, 4 from July, and 3 from August.

D. Chair Couple passed on suggestion from member Larry of Francisco to have an FGCC recognition day in honor of members who have passed away. It was noted that the permission and assistance of surviving members should be sought for this idea. The Board discussed whether an event tied to this recognition should be annual and how it would be coordinated. Laurie will provide feedback to Larry for further consideration.

E. Member Services Couple Nicole and Elizabeth, who were unable to be present for this meeting, forwarded two suggestions to be presented at this meeting.

1. Two new couples that recently signed up online have not sent in \$40 admission dues. Nicole and Elizabeth suggest a process in the future for this situation by which a non-paying new member is contacted once by email and once by phone before the application is disregarded. The addition of a blurb on the online application requesting the \$40 application fee should be added.
2. Nicole and Elizabeth also suggest FGCC should network and recruit on the Internet via My Space and FaceBook Pages. The board decided to hear pros and cons of this idea during the next meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Scheduled at the home of Laurie and Amy in St. Petersburg.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm