

North Georgia Emmaus Board Meeting Minutes September 5, 2023 Meeting

ATTENDING: Patti Ann Allen (Agape), Heather McCreary (Weekend Communication), Tony Fisher (Technology), Bobby Butler (Asst Community LD), Bill Creech (Chrysalis), Don Taylor (Sponsorship), Ginny Sternberg (Women's Team Selection), Mark Niethammer (Treasurer), Eric Glick (Facilities), Joe Harrington (Community Spiritual Director), Hilary Berman (Training), Julie Hubach (Communications), Andy Burt (Men's Team Selection), Mark Niethammer (Music), Gretchen Butler (Development), Duke Ellington (Member at Large), Joe Johnson (Music), Jeanette Karstensen (Registration), Eric Pool (Set-Up), Eileen Hemmati (Kitchen), Alice Champagne (Member at Large), Martin Conner (4th Day)

ABSENT: Dave Wilkins (Community Lay Director), John Thompson (Secretary), Kendel Nickens (Immediate Past CLD), Ben Powell (Face to Face)

VISITORS: Susan Wallace (Representing F2F)

CALLED TO ORDER: Bobby Butler started the meeting at 7:04 PM. Julie Hubach opened with a devotion and prayer.

MINUTES: Bobby asked for approval. Stricken words need to be taken out. The December 7th is a Thursday, date correction to 5th. Motion to approve: Don, 2nd: Mark.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Investigating solutions - Google groups and Microsoft - for Non-Profits. Mark - created a mechanism to keep track of team fees. 5x8 cards (Any questions, please contact treasurer@ngwte.org) ([Report](#))

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Committee Positions to fill per Martin Conner, 4th Day Chair

Committee is currently Jeri Chafin (West side, current)

Nominating Tami Carless (East) and Rick Barnett (East)

Tami truly lives the 4th day life. Every team she has served on, she takes people under her wings

Motion to approve nomination: Martin Conner

2nd: Don Taylor

Board Positions to fill per Nominations Committee

Ginny Sternberg:

Team Selection chair: nominating Allison Kirksey, pilgrim on W81 and LD on W226

Beloved by the community, very patient & thoughtful. Is moving up from Team Selection Committee.

Unanimously approved

Patti Ann Allen:

Patti Cox Bosworth moving up into chair from Agape committee.

Unanimously approved

Training Committee Chair – Hilary Berman is on the 8th ask. Please pray for a successor. She offers to remain in this role until filled.

John Thompson is finishing a 4th year as Board Secretary

Heather McCreary nominated for Secretary - will be ALD qualified after Fall walk which brings her closer to being eligible to be a Board Rep on walks. Is currently weekend communications Chair
Unanimously approved by secret ballot

Weekend Communications Chair now vacant
Jeff McCreary (Heather's husband) to step into that role. Has been helping her throughout her time as Chair and it would be a seamless transition.
Unanimously approved

Dave Wilkins - rolling off as Community Lay Director. Will be Ex Officio
Kendel rolling off Ex Officio
Bobby Butler nominated to be Community Lay Director
Unanimously approved by secret ballot

ACLD spot now vacant
Don Taylor (current Sponsorship Chair) to ACLD
Unanimously approved by secret ballot

Sponsorship Chair now vacant.
Nominations committee would like to endorse Don's suggestion for Evelyn King (from his committee)
Unanimously approved

The new Committee Chairs need to be voted on by the community.
We will wait until the Training Chair is determined to send out email ballot to the community.

Proposal of Fee Increase:

Done some feasibility studies.
It's been \$110 for pilgrims and servants for about 10 years
The median fee was \$160 for a dozen communities in the Southeast.
We are not losing money because of the fewer walks but instead are trying to rent out King's Retreat when it is not in use by NGWTE.
Eric is talking to other groups about our fees. Some of the groups have to pay transportation costs for motor coaches, renting a camp, etc.
We don't have those costs. But we do have maintenance and utilities
Trying to make it this increase incremental and pretty conservative at this point.
Might be incremental but as long as it's justified, we should be okay raising it in the future if needed .

Ginny submits for discussion that we do a non-refundable deposit so there is some skin in the game.
Jeanette - last season we did have 1 sponsor with questionable sponsorship. He sponsored a lot of people and none of them showed.
Martin Conner - Maybe implement a time frame where you don't receive a deposit back.
Issue: some people don't want to pay PayPal, some don't like sending checks. Some sponsors wait and pay at Send Off.
IT/Treasurer: We finally got access into PayPal and we're working on getting it through Venmo through widgets on the website.

Don't think the deposit's a terrible idea. But we should reach a decision on the payment increase tonight and then we continue to discuss the idea of a deposit.

Tony and Mark are fixing the PayPal link.

Proposal is to begin Spring 2024, increase pilgrim and team fees from \$110 to \$125.

Bobby Butler proposed

Andy 2nd

Voted - approved

If someone signs up in the next several weeks for Spring 2024 or if they've already paid but can't attend this fall, they are grandfathered in at current rate.

November 3rd is the date we can change it on the website and on the application.

Transition of ministry manager support:

Ginny has been graciously and tenaciously owning that role.

She would be glad to train somebody on it.

Please start thinking about who might be able to do it.

Ginny and Martha Lee Sanders both had data base experience

A successor would need to understand how a database works

The person should be on the Technology committee

Ginny's note - sponsorship, registration, team selection live and die by ministry manager.

We will have another conversation about that next month.

Committee Reports

Agape –Patti Ann Allen – As reported. ([Report](#))

Chrysalis –Bill Creech – girls are not going to have a flight this Christmas. Eric Glick is the boys' LD and then next year MLK the girls' will get it. And summer will have both girls' and boys'. (No Report)

Communications—Julie Hubach – As reported. Wanted to mention she's leaving Saturday for vacation. Someone is monitoring her email in her absence. ([Report](#))

Community Spiritual Director – Joe Harrington – ([Report](#))

Development – Gretchen Butler – 1 addition to report - there have been some special gifts in honor of Gwen ([report](#))

Face to Face – Ben Powell – As reported. ([Report](#))

Facilities – Eric Glick – As reported. ([Report](#))

Fourth Day Activities – Martin Conner — as reported. Looking for a gathering on the east side before the spring walks. Like an East church around the February timeline ([Report](#))

Kitchen – Eileen Hemmati — Absent ([Report](#))

Music – Joe Johnson — will get the total servant list to Team Selection. ([Report](#))

Registration—Jeanette Karstensen - gave update on pilgrim counts for fall walks ([report](#))

Set Up – Eric Pool – as reported. Crocheted Lanyards for women’s walks. He's short 21. 240 has all the lanyards. 241 is short.

The woman that made them no longer can. The other lady’s contact info is lost. Should we put out an all call in the Loveletter?

241 bins he will bring October meeting.

Reordering cost is about \$831 per walk. (No Report)

Sponsorship –Don Taylor — As reported. ([Report](#))

Women’s Team Selection – Ginny Sternberg – As reported. ([Report](#))

Men’s Team Selection – Andy Burt – As reported. ([Report](#))

Technology – Tony Fisher – NWWTE community inquired about the use of the technology. (laptops). 18 for music and 16 for technology attended the training. There seemed to be a lot of interest. ([Report](#))

Training – Hilary Berman – As reported. ([Report](#))

Weekend Communications – Heather McCreary— where is the original document of the NGWTE brochure? Mike Fitzgerald had that made up. Those are old photos and should be updated. ([Report](#))

Member at Large – Duke Ellington – nothing to report

Member at Large – Alice Champagne – as reported ([report](#))

Past Community Lay Director – Kendel Nickens— No report

Assistant Community Lay Director – Bobby Butler — No report.

Community Lay Director – David Wilkins – Absent

Closing Prayer: Julie Hubach

Motion to close – Bobby, Second – Eric. All in favor

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:00 pm

Next Meeting: November 7th @ 7p

October Devotion & Prayer: Duke Ellington

Respectfully submitted: John Thompson 09/28/2023