

## **February 2011 Sectionals Minutes**

### **Albany Sectionals Minutes Sarah Kenning's Home February 7, 2011**

In attendance: Kim Aperance, Jennifer Bryant, Michele Gruber, Megan Kelly, Sarah Kenning, Kirsten Kropp, Petra Larsen, Ginny Rosborough, Lea Ermides Stevens

Meeting called to order 7:30 p.m.

#### Survey

Everyone completed a survey regarding their opinion of the General Membership Meetings from September 2010-January 2011, and their thoughts on past Done in a Days as well as those they'd like to see in the future. Discussion regarding future DIADs followed.

\* Double H Ranch: Members felt that a DIAD at the Double H Ranch was related to our mission if it involved working directly with children. Some people expressed concern about it being too far beyond our community and also that some people may not travel for it.

\* DIL Sign-Ups: Members had mixed feelings about the sign-ups at the library. Said it was fun while they were engaged in something specific, like crafts, but when it is straight sign-ups, not as desirable because people at the library are usually there for some other reason. Usually, you don't sign up more than a couple of kids at a time.

\* Suggested DIAD: Once a month, pick a book and plan a day around that book for a specific group, i.e. Girls, Inc. For example, could choose the book "Bella Ballerina" - read it to the kids, and then have a trip to the ballet (tickets donated). Another example, is "Chinese Tea Garden" story followed by a traditional Chinese tea ceremony for kids. For these type of DIADs, could partner with groups like Head Start, United Way, and businesses could get sponsorship packet for donating to it.

Merging of tri-city area leagues - question about whether the leagues would merge was posed by a member, which led to a discussion about it. Consensus was that if Troy was interested in merging, it would be great to move forward.

Dolly's Imagination Library: Discussed need to continue signing up children. Talked about daycare initiative and pilot program with Albany Med, whereby we'd engage in a 3 month partnership with the hospital to sign up children born at AMCH. Sarah Kenning suggested looking into the medical students' program whereby the students have wireless palm pilots and could receive the sign ups.

#### Announcements:

\* Dues: Members reminded that dues notices would be going out soon and encouraged to pay and to pay by check, if at all possible in order to save the league from having to pay processing fees.

\* American Girl: Members encouraged to sign up if they haven't yet done so. A particular need for volunteers for the Saturday afternoon show.

\* Spring Cocktail Party: Scheduled for April 4th at "Taste."

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

## **Delmar Sectionals Minutes**

**Carolyn Daggett's Home**

**2/8/2011**

In attendance: Barbara Beauchamp, Sheryl English, Jen Carraher, Sandra Doellefeld, Suzy Sodergren, Mary Kempton Moore, Brianna Wattie, Jessica Meigher, Sarah Halliday, Lisa Cronlund, Angie Leung Williams

Call to order 6:41PM by Carolyn

No changes to the agenda

Member satisfaction survey distributed, completed and collected

Dues Notices Distributed

Lisa presented the Daycare Initiative

Jen discussed the Provisional project: Provisionals are making a "tool kit" for IL recruitment. This tool kit can then be given to members to help target places for IL and to tell members/people at targeted location and recipients of books what to do/expect step by step.

Open Forum / announcements

Fashion show committee looking for help

Saturday afternoon show still needs volunteers and remember this is a requirement

Motion to adjourn called by Carolyn 7:33PM, seconded by Sandy, all in favor.

## **Latham Sectionals Minutes**

### **Hope O'Brien's Home**

**02/09/2011**

In attendance: Andrea Cass, Robyn Eisen, Marna Redding, Hope O'Brien, Colleen Corcoran, Sharon Lastique, Natalia Kokalj

1. At 7:12 PM the meeting was called to order.
2. Dues Notices are due on or before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Payment by check or credit card, check is preferable.
  - a. Consider donating to the scholarship fund
3. Member survey was distributed and completed.
4. Schedule of meetings and events:
  - a. Did we do too much or not enough? There were a lot of events.
  - b. Upcoming DIADs: Kids Expo, DIAM (need clothing), American Girl, Cinderella Project (April 1 and 2), Habitat possible.
5. Communication
  - a. This year's emails are better than last year's
  - b. Website is way more up to date this year
  - c. New website is harder to navigate though
  - d. Membership Directory is really great.
6. Day Care Initiative
  - a. Dolly is our signature project
  - b. The Day Care Initiative is our way to introduce DIL to day cares and using the Provisional's tool kit to help sign up children in Albany.
  - c. There are 40 day cares in Albany- this group has been assigned four and there are four roles to fulfill: sender, follow up, tracker, personal relationship.
    - i. Robyn- sender
    - ii. Marna- follow up (ORC and Grestina)
    - iii. Hope- follow up (NYC and Cloverpatch)
    - iv. Natalia- tracker
    - v. Sharon- personal relationship
    - vi. Robyn- personal relationship (NYC and Cloverpatch)
    - vii. Andrea- tracker
7. Open forum- nothing to report.

Meeting adjourned.

## **Menands Sectionals Minutes**

### **Kate Barry's Home**

In attendance: Kara Tubbs, Kate Barry, Bridge Graber, Janis Graziano, Megan Keenholts, Kristen Forkeutis

Meeting called to order: 7:10 p.m.

All items on the agenda were discussed. Dues were paid at the meeting by Bridge Graber. All six members completed and handed in the Survey. Daycare Initiative materials were handed out and explained. Team #1 is Kristen and Kate. Team # 2 is Bridget, Janis, and Meghan. There was some confusion about what needed to be done. I explained that once they sat down and read through everything it would make sense. There was a lot of discussion about the reason for wanting to sign up so many children. The question was asked if the purpose of IL was to sign up children in need or just any child. One member seemed concerned that we were targeting expensive day cares where wealthy parents send their children- i.e. The Jewish Community Center. Other members explained that the reason we need to sign up large amounts of children is so we can get the numbers we need to expand to other areas of NYS. Further discussion was had about whether the point is to spread literacy to all Albany families, or just focus on the poor ones.

Meeting adjourned: 7:44 p.m.

#### **Survey Results:**

##### **Question #1 September Training**

- 3 attended. 3 did not.
- Speaker rating: Two (5) and One (4)
- Positive: Three yes
- Comments: Loved it, very hands on

##### **Question #2 October Training**

- 2 attended, 4 did not
- Speaker rating: One (3), One blank
- Positive: Two yes
- Comments: none

##### **Question #3 November Training**

- 2 attended, 4 did not
- Speaker rating: Two (5)
- Positive: Two yes
- Comments: She was very positive and inspirational

Question #4 January Training

- 3 attended, 3 did not
- Speaker rating: One (1), One (3), and One (4)
- Positive: Three yes
- Comments: A little slow, but got the overall message

Question #5: Five yes, One no

Question #6: Two yes, Three no

Question # 7: Six yes

Question #8: One Friday, Three Saturday, One Saturday or Sunday, One Sunday

Question #9: Five (2), One (1-2)

Question #10: Five yes, One no

Question #11: Four yes, One sometimes

Question #12: Four yes, One no

Question #13:

- a) Five yes, One no
- b) One yes, Four no, One blank
- c) Five yes (two with comment “at night”), One no
- d) Four yes, One no, One blank
- e) Three yes, Two no, One blank

Additional Comments: What happened to the creating of the JL dinner club?

**Saratoga Springs Sectional: The Paddocks Club House, Saratoga Springs**

**February 10, 2011**

6:00 pm Social and 6:30 pm Meeting

In attendance: Carly Connors, Liz O'Connell, Allison Meyers, Sandra Van Pelt, Catherine Willis, Candace Zlotnick (arrived later), Michele Melton.

- I. Carly Connors called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.
- II. Additions or Changes to the Agenda –no changes.
- III. Congratulations to Catherine on her upcoming wedding!
- IV. Sectionals Survey- Training, Events, DIADs
  - a. We are surveying members in a non-attribution environment to determine:
    - i. What trainings they found useful from each GMM
    - ii. Which DIADs they would like to participate in:
      1. Double H Ranch approached JLA for a DIAD, and concerns have been raised about it not being within the JLA service area of Albany.  
Discussion pointed out:
        - a. It helps spread the word of the JLA beyond Albany
        - b. Most of the children attending the camp are from Albany
        - c. It might make a good Tri-League event.
        - d. Double H Ranch has a fantastic community reputation and is a worthy cause.
    - iii. What kind of events and fundraisers they would attend. We added more event options this year, but not many are attending:
      1. A joint JLA and JL-Schenectady-Saratoga track event in summer is a good idea.
      2. Spring cocktail party will be at Dale Miller/Taste on 4/4/11. All three regional Leagues will be invited. We can do a 50/50 raffle there.
        - a. Candace agreed to be our guest bartender- thanks Candace!
        - b. Suggested "9-5" movie theme with three bartenders.
      3. We very likely won't have as many events and fundraisers next year.
      4. Maybe reconsider holding the fall fundraiser and select a different event to focus our energies on.
      5. Maybe the League should create a set of signature events and DIADs it will be known for annually- helps cultivate an image in community, and establish more tradition within the League.
      6. JLA really needs to cultivate greater community support:
        - a. Albany Med/DIL partnership and pilot program.
          - i. Why can't we focus some DIADs on this to support it?  
We MUST improve the connectivity of our members' activities to the greater JLA plan.

1. The JLA development and implementation of a new strategic plan should help address some of the lack of connectivity.
    - b. Consider making DIADs with an organization, not date/time focus, that way people can sign up with that organization on the days/times that suit them, and still perform the community service the League encourages and requires.
    - c. At the Kids Expo last year, Candace and Catherine were dynamos and got a lot of kids signed up! We need more people with their energy.
    - d. Consider having League volunteering projects revolving around adopting a foster family and providing for their needs, providing supplies to a battered women's shelter.
  - iv. Barriers to greater participation/ ways to get better participation:
    1. Should we set JLA membership requirements bar higher or lower?
      - a. Some argued the bar should be set higher to filter out those who really want to participate in the community.
      - b. We are a great set of women to know, and maybe setting the bar higher will enhance collaboration.
    2. It was pointed out we are a busy group of women with many commitments and priorities. The ability to participate may just be a matter of personal commitment.
  - v. Is the eNewsletter being read? Useful? Yes, it is being read and it is AWESOME!
- V. Dues Notice distributed and a reminder was given about the importance of paying on time and the new expedited time frame for payment compliance. We need to close out Treasurer books by the end of the League year, so it is important to pay by the deadline.
- VI. DIL Day Care Project- a list of eight day cares and roles/responsibilities was distributed. The project was explained. Those agreeing to perform one role receive one DIAM credit, those agreeing to three roles receive a DIAD credit.
  - a. The Board member at Sectionals (Carly) will mail the letters.
  - b. All calls must be completed no later than 03/08/2011.
  - c. Liz and Ally will split the list of day cares and volunteered to assume three roles each. Carly to email them the packets of information.
- VII. Open Forum
  - a. Who is the DIL chair? Is it still Colleen Corcoran? Yes. She was emailed re the Albany Children's Festival on 4/9 and has not yet responded, and will be at the Albany Academy for Girls. The event will have authors and illustrators and will be a great promotion event for DIL and possible fundraiser. Michele to email FDC to suggest possible DIL fundraising table at the event.
  - b. Does anybody know of a place to donate housewares, etc? Unity House on Broadway in Troy is good. Also suggested to contact Brianna Wattie- she sits on the Board of a similar organization, and they pick up your donations.
  - c. How many years do you have to be in the League before you can go Sustainer?

- i. If you are younger than 40, you must be in the League at least 10 years.
  - ii. If you are older than 40, you can go sustainer at any time.
  - iii. If you plan to go Sustainer in the next League year, you must advise the Nominating and Placement VP in writing no later than 03/15 of the League year.
- d. If a member is very successful in fundraising, can they transfer the abundance of credits to somebody who may be struggling to meet requirements? No.
  - i. Kudos to Liz O'Connell who got a whole Girl Scout Troop to attend American Girl!
  - ii. Kudos to Sandra Van Pelt who sold 15 tickets to American Girl!
  - iii. Kudos to Ginny Rosborough, co-chair of AG, who is great!
- e. If anybody is interested in being on the Fund Development Committee, let Caitlin Cooper know. Next year will be cultivating contacts, working on grant applications, so much work can be done from home. Karen Cunes expressed interest.
  - i. Consider doing a vendor fair, similar to the highly successful Stamford-Norwalk, CT vendor fair. They charge \$30/table, \$5/ticket and their League gets a percentage of sales. It could also be a great DIL sign up opportunity.
    - 1. There is a lot of competition for this kind of event (Schenectady League does one).

**VIII. Motion to Adjourn\*- at 8:05 PM, Carly Connors motioned to adjourn, and Sandra Van Pelt seconded. Motion approved.**

**\*Voting issue**

## **JLA February Sectional Meeting- Kate Barry's House, Menands**

**Host: Kate Barry**

In attendance: Kara Tubbs, Kate Barry, Bridge Graber, Janis Graziano, Megan Keenholts, Kristen Forkeutis

Meeting called to order: 7:10 p.m.

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**2/8/2011**

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**Motion to adjourn called by Carolyn 7:33, seconded by Sandy, all in favor.**

**Albany Sectionals: Sarah Kenning's House  
February 7, 2011**

In Attendance: Kim Aperance, Jennifer Bryant, Michele Gruber, Megan Kelly, Sarah Kenning, Kirsten Kropp, Petra Larsen, Ginny Rosborough, Lea Ermides Stevens

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\* Spring Cocktail Party: Scheduled for April 4th at "Taste."

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Respectfully submitted,  
Michele Melton, Recording Secretary