

**The Emerald Society
September 4, 2003
Miami Yacht Club
Minutes**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. Present were President Michael O'Connor, Second Vice President & Board Member, Bill O'Brien; Secretary & Board member Carroll Cameron; Treasurer & Board Member David Russell; Board members: Dan Fitzgerald, Billy Cameron, John Kane, Judi Sherry, Mary Ann Fierro; member John Doherty. First Vice President, Tom Dunn and Board members Joe McManus, Ed Cooke, and Oliver Kerr were excused. A quorum was established.

Order of Business

The order of business was adopted.

President's Report (M. O'Connor)

The president has developed two letters of welcome for new members. He also submitted procedures for welcoming new members. All three will be added to the procedure manual.

Secretary Report (C. Cameron)

No minutes were read because the July meeting did not have a quorum. **Motion** by the secretary to print only 5 copies of minutes, using email to disseminate them prior to the meeting. Second by B.Cameron. Discussion: Every month several copies of minutes are thrown away. It will cut costs to email minutes. Printing 5 will accommodate Board members who do not have computers. **Motion passed.**

Treasurer's Report (D. Russell)

The treasurer presented several detailed reports which are attached to the minutes. He noted that in spite of lack of calls to the Emerald voice mail, the phone lines are costing the society about \$60.00/month.

The treasurer passed out a list of members. **Directive:** Each Board member is to call designated non-renewing members on the list to encourage them to get their dues in.

Directive: O'Brien to call Louise Nolan to make arrangements with her to pick up the Big Mouth equipment so we can cancel the phone line.

Directive: Doherty to pick up the Big Mouth equipment and install it at his house.

The treasurer also noted that two ads for the St. Patrick's booklet have not yet been paid for. Both came in at the last minute. The ads were Michael Sikes, Esq. for \$150.00 and Koflow and Flynn for \$85.00.

Directive: Bill Cameron to call and collect for the remaining St. Patrick's ads.

Committee Reports

Membership (Billy Cameron)

The following applicants were accepted as a new member.

Name	Sponsor
Nancy McDermott	Chuck Hardy
Susan Donnelly	Michael O'Connor

Nabil Salem's application was incomplete. Referred back to his/her sponsor, Ed Cooke, for more information.

Social Site (Bill O'Brien)

September's social will be at the Grand Bay mezzanine in Coconut Grove on Wednesday, September 24, beginning at 6:30. Happy hour prices will be extended to 9:30.

Fierro suggested that the society contact the Play Write Irish Pub on Miami Beach for a future social..

Incorporation Committee (Michael O'Connor)

O'Brien, O'Connor, & Russell met with Robert Trescott, an attorney, about the incorporation process. The Articles of Incorporation for the South Florida Emerald Society as a 501(c)(6) corporation is almost complete. In addition, a separate corporation, the St. Patrick's Day Festival Committee, Inc. will be organized and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) corporation.

Membership Decal Committee (Dan Fitzgerald, Carroll Cameron)

The best price came from Pen and Ink.

Directive: C. Cameron to take logo to Pen and Ink and send the final product to the board via email.

Membership Card Committee (Dave Russell, Michael O'Connor)

After the logo is done for the decal, the card committee will use it for the membership card.

OLD BUSINESS

John Doherty is concerned about the emails from outside organizations asking about festivals.

The Christmas festival is set for December 4, 2003 with Andy Cooney as headliner. Problem is that Coral Gables Country Club may not be ready. Alternatives suggested were Fireman's Hall by Doral which seats 350 or Parrot Jungle which seats more than 1,000.

O'Brien negotiated a reduction in fees from City of Coral Gables for 2003 St. Patrick's Day Festival. The bill from the Coral Gables Fire Dept was essentially reduced to \$300 for the event which is covered by our \$300 deposit.

Directive: O'Brien to call Coral Gables Country Club to see if they will guarantee that it will be open. If they won't, switch the party to the Parrot Jungle.

Directive: Judi Sherri to call her neighbor for information on pipers.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on the focus of the charities to benefit from the new St. Patrick's Festival Committee, Inc. Decision was to focus on children's charities and to develop a slogan unique to our charitable activities. No action taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2003