

The South Florida Emerald Society, Inc
Board of Directors Meeting
Miami Yacht Club
Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

- Members Present: Don Harrington, Jr., John Doherty, Kassie Doyle, Sean Glynn, David Donnelly, Mark Donnelly, Sean Ferrel, Chris Kelley, Bill O'Brien, Richard Al-Iman
- Excused Absences: Johnette Hardiman, Ann Eustace, Megan Walsh
- Unexcused Absences: Hugh Ryan, Blair Brogan, Michael Lally, Sean Hayes
- Guests: Isaac Taylor, Maureen Hickey

Pledge of Allegiance

Quorum Call

Welcome any guests

Quorum call – Quorum met

Recording of Proxies: Ann Eustace to Kassie Doyle Taylor; Johnette Hardiman to Don Harrington

Order of Business

President's Report (Don Harrington, Jr.)

- It's all about membership! We also need people to be actively involved. Thank you all in attendance at this meeting.

Secretary's Report (Kassie Doyle)

- Don Harrington re June Minutes – Kassie was out of the country at last meeting. Minutes were taken, but have not appeared yet. Vote will be tabled until next meeting.
- April minutes tabled because unknown whether minutes were approved in June minutes.

Treasurer's Report (John Doherty)

- June Treasurer's Report
 - o Total combined balances = \$31,680.24
 - o John got increase on our interest rate for CDs.
 - o Review of big mouth/advertising usage
 - o Motion to approve by B. O'Brien. Second by C. Kelley. Motion passes unopposed.

Committee Reports

- **Membership (Sean Glynn)**
 - o June social was fantastic! We have over 40 persons in attendance. Location was excellent. Thank you to Irish Times! We also got three new members and two renewals thanks to the social.
 - o Membership directories are going out tomorrow. The wonderful Judi Tierney Sherry will put together packages and mail them out to members.

- Membership cards have been updated and revised to remove blacked-out advertising on back. They are also smaller to better fit in people's wallets.
 - David Donnelly has been doing a great job of getting attendance lists at socials to get contact info for potential new members. He is also sending copies of our Newsletter and Big Mouth Announcements to potential new members.
 - Comment from K. Doyle – good reason to have two newsletters is because we don't want potential new members to feel as though they are being spammed with the official Emerald Mailing list
 - New members!
 - Cavanaugh Peer Everett – from Dublin, Ireland by way of Norway. He attended the Irish Stew Cookoff and has formally applied for membership
 - Stephen Dervan – Works at Irish Times. Young Man. Paternal side from Galway. Maternal side from Laois. Paul Reilly is his sponsor. He is volunteering to teach Gaelic to our members!
 - Ecin Whyte – Bar Manager at Irish Times. Paternal side from Dublin and maternal side is from Meath. Paul Reilly is his sponsor.
 - Mr. Everett has paid. Megan Walsh (who could not attend tonight) has payments from the other two members).
 - Motion to approve above-referenced three new members by Chris Kelley. Second by K. Doyle Taylor. Motion passes unanimously.
 - In light of new members, we have 21 new members since January. Mark now has sponsored four new members.
 - John Doherty: after these three appointments, we will have 124 members. Note that we cut 15 members due to non-payment from the directory.
- **Socials (Hugh Ryan)**
- July 29 = there is a miscommunication over where the social will be. The Newsletter had an inadvertent scrivener's error. The July social will be on July 29 at DUFFY'S.
 - August – no social, no board meeting
 - September 30 – Sports Grill Kendall
 - October 28 – Scullys
- **Celtic Cultural Series (Joe McManus – *in absentia*; Don Harrington presented)**
- Bloomsday had a great event! Good attendance and it was a great event. Thank you to John Kane for spearheading a great event!
 - David Donnelly sent all attendees a copy of our newsletter.
 - Sean Glynn mentioned that one of the new members from the June Social at Irish Times who works there was interested in teaching Gaelic to members. This could be a possible fun CCS event.
- **Health and Welfare**
- Carol and Billy Cameron have both been in bad health lately.
 - Chris Kelley went to Mary Borden's funeral. It was well-attended and she was obviously very well-loved.
 - Chris Kelley also went to Maurice Grondin's funeral
- **By-Laws (Sean Ferrell)**

- Than you, Sean, for going through great effort to revise our bylaws!
- Persons have submitted proposed revisions, which were considered. Thank you.
- Chris Kelley raised several points regarding the proposed minutes. Of note, he suggested proxy votes (VII, Section 6) should be in writing (e.g. email, letter, etc.) rather than via phone call or text. Also suggested edits to Article VIII, Section 3(i) regarding removal of members and more persons needed to Article XI to change the by-laws (suggested 2/3 Board to change bylaws).
- Sean Ferrel for clarification:
 - Article XI – should read in part “a 2/3 vote of the board is necessary for amendment of these bylaws.
 - Article 9, Section 1 (standing Committees) – delete “advisory”; delete from (F) “contributions”
 - With the above three changes, Sean proposes we vote and amend bylaws. Do we have 2/3 of the board present? Yes.
 - Sean moves to approve by laws incorporating the above-referenced amendments. Second by Richard Al-Iman. Motion passes unopposed.
- St. Patrick’s Day Festival (John Doherty)
 - Meeting on September 15 at the Sports Grill in Kendal

Old Business

- Delinquent payments – any individuals who have not paid their dues have been cut from membership roster

New Business

- Christmas in Ireland Catering & Alcohol Proposal
 - Proposal for Saturday, December 12
 - Food: carving station and grilled tilapia or chicken with white wine butter sauce topped with capers and accompaniments
 - Christmas in Ireland is our holiday celebration. \$75 is our maximum ticket price as attendance plummets with any attendance less than this. Don’s purpose was to try to get us back down to \$65 per person. Thus, aggressive negotiations were held with the Elks club. Within the \$75 per person ticket price, the price for prizes, decorations, prices, bag piper, Breffni dangers, invitations, mailing, etc. is included.
 - Venue is large. It can easily takeover 150
 - Minimum attendance of 100. We are pretty confident we can get 75 persons to attend.
 - We believe there is a lot of potential for cross-marketing. We would like to set up attendance table at Elks. Annie believes she may be able to get 25 couples.
 - Deposit to hold the date is \$300
 - J. Doherty has some points
 - Last year we had 58 people in attendance. Guarantee of 100 is almost double what we had last year. What is the game plan to get 58 people to turn into 100?
 - Entertainment last year was cheap (Breffni \$100 plus \$750 for band). We lost \$1571 last year with 58 people. What’s the draw to get people to come in? What are we really trying to do here?
 - Mark Donnelly – if we are depending on the Elks we shouldn’t do it.

- We should definitely make it a cash bar and put money towards the bar.
- Maureen Hickey – you need to give something for the money. This is a great time to do a raffle, a silent auction, a Chinese auction, etc.
- Looking back five years, we used to have around 200 people in attendance. Last year we had 50. We used to give away a free trip to Ireland for two for two weeks. The problem is that the organization has gotten lazy. Based on the number of tickets, the organization has gotten lazy. We changed venue to reduce cost, which was not well-received. We also could no longer support a large free prize.
- Maureen Hickey – we need to fill seats. We should look outside of the Emerald society to do so.
- Paul Reilly is getting a price from Chair Gordey for entertainment
- Rich Al-Iman moves to pay the \$300 deposit to hold the date in order to allow the committee to negotiate further. Second by C. Kelley. Motion carries unopposed.
- Committee work to continue.

Motion to adjourn at 9:00. Second by C. Kelley. Motion carries unopposed