

2017.3.8

The March meeting of MSIG was held on March 8th at Church of the Brethren. There were 14 people in attendance.

Joann B Thursday Night St. Michaels

Jim R MGS LGL Committee

Bob T Little Red House "Sunlight of the Spirit"

Sue R Kent Island Lunch Group

Janet W Wednesday Night Beginners Easton

Dave T Oxford Monday Night

Chuck L Eye Opener

Jennifer B Stepping Stones, Activities chair

Mary J Kent Island Lunch Group

Ron M BYOL

Dave M guest

Joe H Chair

Barry B Vice chair

Rose R secretary, Ship Shape St. Michaels

Andy was unable to be here, but had sent his report, which was read and approved.

The minutes were read and one correction made. Jenn clarified the changes to the committees that had been approved at the February meeting. Joe pointed out that we need volunteers for office committee, which includes what used to be the Telephone Committee and Janet volunteered for telephone duty. Joe suggested that we begin now to organize the sub-committees so as to have something in place to pass on when elections are held in August.

Chuck L reported on what he has done for the PI/CPC committee. The Shore Medical Pavilion in Queenstown and Briges in Cambridge are on board with pamphlets. Jen told us that David H has agreed to mentor PI/CPC, she's taken on Talbot County, and Chuck L has adopted Queen Anne's County.

Sue requested that we do more connecting through e-mail. Chestertown is frequently overlooked, as are more remote meetings like Krumpton. Chuck reminded us that the MSIG meetings used to be held in three locations. Barry suggested that Chestertown was relatively self-contained because of the Alano Club.

When asked to give the report for the Activities Committee, Jenn B ceded her time to Mary J, from the Kent Island Lunch Group to discuss the web site. Mary is a long-time computer scientist who has done web development for many years. She gave us copies of a website that she had designed using Wix.com, a free web site builder with no coding skills required. Intergroup had been looking at potential web development fees of \$1500 - \$2500 for design, maintenance and training sessions. The beauty of hosting the site through Wix.com is that there is no up-front design cost, and there are no fees for maintenance. There would still be a fee to Wix for monthly web hosting, and an annual fee to maintain the domain name, just as Intergroup is paying for now.

Dave M also shared his proposal for a website layout which would allow for simple updates for such things as meeting minutes and changes to the Where and When, but would require someone with some programming background if major changes were to be made. Joe, Barry, Dave, and Mary had met with Greg from Chestertown, who indicated that he could develop a new site for us, and would expect to be paid for his services. There was also some discussion about e-mail capability on the website. Joe proposed posting new meetings on the website as opposed to sharing that information via e-mail. He said "Surprisingly, I'm delighted with our progress" and that we should have enough information by the April meeting to bring something intelligible back to our home groups. He is willing to stay on after his term expires to assist with the website. Mary was invaluable in assisting me to condense the website discussion, and she graciously allowed me to plagiarize her summary of the discussion. I have printed a couple copies of her observations for anyone who wants more information about the various proposals.

Joann suggested a newsletter that should be separate from the website, and that anniversaries should be posted there. Joe said that anniversaries should be on the website and that the board members' duties would include posting information on the website. Jenn suggested that committee chairs also take responsibility for posting information relating to their sub-committees, and Joe said that we need to keep the pool of approved posters small enough to be manageable.

Chuck asked if it was true that the office had been broken into, and indeed it had been. Apparently, the lock on our office was made in 1935, and other offices in the Masonic building were also compromised.

Old business - Jen proposed that the symposium that had been proposed in February be postponed to May. She reported on the Activities Committee meeting that had been held prior to the MSIG general meeting, where we discussed about the Pot Luck Dinner that Stepping Stones was hosting. Joe pointed out that this was a good example of home groups taking on Activities as he had suggested in prior meetings. The Galena breakfast was also mentioned as a perennial activity that was sponsored by a home group.

Sue suggested that MSIG reach out to the more remote home groups to recruit more representatives.

There were multiple discussions taking place as the meeting closed.