

Chautauqua UCC Annual Meeting
Sunday August 25 2024 1:00 p.m. EST
Minutes

Sue Peterson, President, called the meeting to order

There were 35 members in attendance.

John Rodgers offered opening prayer and led a Service of Remembrance.

Members of our CUCCS who have died since our annual meeting in 2023 are:

1. Marilyn Lipsitz-Flax (1/17/24)
2. Mary Jane Hubbard (4/4/24)
3. Sandy Boehm (5/1/24)
4. Rita Auerbach (5/18/24)
5. Deb Solyan (5/24/24)
6. The Rev. Dr. Gerald (Gerry) Hanberry (6/10/24)
7. Paul W. Beamer
8. Rev Richard Hemann (6/6/23)

Board Members and Staff were introduced

President's Report: Sue Peterson

Sue posed the question: Where is God present within us at Chautauqua. Her answer included presence of the Holy in the staff, board, guests, our extravagant hospitality, and much more. It was a roller coaster season with many adjustments within the staff, due to illness, that had to be made almost daily for the first half of the season. She thanked the staff and board for keeping things running smoothly.

The bathroom remodel in the headquarters was completed just before the season began. All are pleased, especially the Chaplain Administrators! Thanks to all who donated to the project!

Approval of the minutes from the CUCCS Annual Meeting 2023

Unanimous

Chaplain Administrator Report: John Rodgers – on behalf of all the CA's during the 2024 season.

The roller coaster season with Chaplain Administrator leadership, due to illnesses, would have been, probably, an insurmountable problem had we not initiated the ½ season

rotation and 3 CA member team a few years ago. Having a pool of CA's to resource our needs this summer made the season manageable and successful.

Many thanks go to the board members (Welling Hell, Ruth Becker), and hosts (Sheila Gossett, John Botti, David and Margaret Graves) and especially our registrar (Grace Lipman) who stepped into the vacuum at the beginning of the season to cover the CA's duties.

John read a note from Peggy O'Connor thanking the UCC guests and staff for support during the summer.

Registrars Report: Grace Lipman

Grace expressed deep gratitude for hosts and board members that made up our "team" keeping things running this season.

A season of unexpected cancellations. A lot of fluctuation throughout the season.

7 New life members

8 season residents

64 brand new guests

92.8% full

Every week except week 9, we had children and young people in our facilities; 25 in all.

Treasurer's Report: Rachel Barnard

Rachel focused our attention on how we steward our money:

1. Operating the buildings (our operating budget) which includes room gifts and philanthropy (members are very generous)
2. Building a foundation for the next generations.

We have not had too many unexpected expenses.

Mattress covers were purchased for all the rooms.

Remodel of the Headquarters bathrooms upstairs (CoW and CA's bathrooms). It was more expensive than we initially anticipated. The cost of the remodel was covered by gifts, left over money from the carpet fund for the Mayflower and \$25,000.00 from the endowment.

Balance sheet looks good. We have \$32,000 in the bank in cash and \$122,000.00 in cash in a money market fund, which is our rainy day fund.

The budget was presented for 2025.

Room rates will be raised. They haven't been raised since 2021.

\$25,000.00 from the Endowment is placed in the budget with intention NOT to use it.

In 2024, the cleaning will be more expensive, insurance has gone up every year, we will purchase covers for the box springs, and a little more money is budgeted for capital expenses with the hope of adding to that column every year.

Rachel, on behalf of the finance committee presents the budget for approval.

Budget approved unanimously.

Endowment Trustees Report: John Rodgers

The Endowment reached just over \$1,150,000.00 in 2024! The highest it's ever been! The efforts of the past 5 years have provided donations, smart investing and a good market to increase our account substantially. About 5 years ago, the membership, at an annual meeting, approved using 4% of the endowment, yearly, if needed, for various improvements. This year that 4% was used for capital improvement which indicates the monies are being used for what the endowment was intended.

The Legacy Circle now has 37 members. Focus on the LC will continue.

Life membership cost will be raised to \$1000. All current Life Members stay as such, yet are encouraged to raise their contribution to match the \$1000.00.

Governance: Julie Turnley reported for Clare Kralovec

Nominations as follows:

Executive Committee:

President – Sue Peterson
Vice President – Bev Grunden
Secretary – Ruth Becker
Treasurer – Rachel Barnard

Board Members:

Rachel Barnard – 2nd Term
David Wardlaw – 1st Term
Meredith Townsend – 1st Term
Terry Horner – 1st Term

Endowment Trustee

John Rodgers – 1st Term

Passed Unanimously

Personnel: Shannon Washington

Shannon thanked the staff for their hard work during the season. She announced the Hosts and staff for the 2025 season:

First half of the season

RCH: Denis Esslinger and Mitzi Cullen
Mayflower: David and Margaret Graves

Second half of the season
RCH: Sheila Gossett and John Botti
Mayflower: Maureen O'Brian and Fred Childers

3rd Host – Jane Barnard

Registrar: Grace Lipman

Facilities Manager: Curt Ackley

Chaplain Administrators:
1st Half: John Rodgers (Susan)
2nd Half: Laura and Bill Hoglund

Web and Newsletter: Welling Hall

There have been problems getting the newsletter to all members. The solution is to use a different platform. However, all members must subscribe. This opportunity will be available for several rotations of notification and instructions are on the web site.

Facilities and Facilities Manager: Shannon Washington reported for John Forristal (Chair) and Curt Ackley (Manager)

The season was a demonstration of the power of working together as a community. As a result a monumental amount of work has been accomplished. Examples are:

1. New steps to the RCH porch
2. new garbage shed behind the Headquarters
3. new covering on the bottoms of all box spring mattresses that needed it
4. all Mayflower mattresses were encased
5. pediments were rebuilt on the Mayflower porch
6. opening and cleaning of houses were done with massive help and good humor
7. bathrooms in the headquarters were remodeled by Mayshark
8. plans are underway to have better access points in the upstairs of the headquarters and in the chapel for internet access. Additionally there will be separate access points on the headquarters porch for guests. Thanks to help from Jeff Kane, ECOC board member, this work is ongoing for just the cost of the wire.
9. A contract with JC Elevator company has been negotiated which resulted in no problems this summer with the elevator

Looking to the future, ongoing problems continue to be encountered due to the age of the buildings. The committee is seeking data from Mayshark regarding the expected life span of our structures. The data will help the board prioritize work and budgeting going forward.

150th Anniversary: Ruth Becker

Welling Hall has agreed to write our history. In the research she has been doing this season, she discovered that the 1st official meeting of the Congregational Group was in 1878, not 1877.

In closing the meeting, Sue Peterson, President reminded all that they are eligible to become or recommend hosts, board members and helpers.

Susan Rodgers thanked the Society for the new bathrooms in the Headquarters living area.

Rex Becker asked that there be follow up on the 64 new guests. He would like them to be contacted if they don't return for another season to ascertain why they chose not to return.

Closing Prayer: John Rodgers

Respectfully Submitted:
Ruth Becker, Secretary
CUCCS