

SWI 26th Annual Business Meeting

October 8, 2015

RCCL Brilliance of the Seas

Called to Order: 10:15 A.M.

Pledge of Allegiance: Valerie Roffe

Reading of “Those Flown West” and Deceased Members: Valerie Roffe

Lynn Merenbach	Mary Jo Knipe
Mary Atkins	Sue Lagos Dedmon (non-member)
Mary E. McCleary	Lucy Padgitt
Suzanne Randall Miller	Donna Gallagher
Patti Glover	Shirley Carhart
Shirley Beck	Valorie Gardner
Peggy McGuire	Mary Ellen Conklin
Bruno Stansky	Janice Nord

Secretary Report: Valerie Roffe said the minutes from the 2014 convention in Pittsburgh are on the web site. The 2015 minutes will be available on the web site as soon as they are completed. She asked that before asking a question or commenting to please state your name so that it can be recorded in the minutes. The 2014 minutes were approved.

Treasurer Report: Stephanie Byrne presented the 2014 Statement of Income & Expenses which will be included with the minutes. Because Stephanie lives on Long Island, she attends the annual memorial service for Flight 800. She mentioned how lovely the memorial is and recommended that everyone try to visit to understand how the charity money is spent. Stephanie announced that SWI now has 862 active members. Member **Susan Warren** asked about the items Printing and Postage on the 2014 Statement of Income and Expenses. Stephanie responded that some postage expenses are included under printing because mailings are sent directly from the printer and the postage and printing are sent as one bill. Therefore, she did not itemize each expense. The Postage item was all other expenses incurred by SWI in the course of running the organization. Member **Swantje Levin** asked who Dwight Dedmon was. Stephanie responded that he was instrumental in encouraging SWI to adopt a charity and therefore, our charity was named after him now known as the Dwight L. Dedman Humanitarian Fund. This Fund now encompasses the Flight 800 Memorial Endowment Fund and The TWA Museum at 10 Richards Road. **Jodi Wheeler** commented that the printing and mailing cost for the directory should be separated. That will be discussed at the next Board Meeting. Member **Claire Whittaker** questioned the expense of printing the directory at all since most members have email and can access the directory on line. Anita Ridpath, Web Manager, commented that it is very difficult to separate those who have email and those who do not when the online directory is sent to the printer for mailings. **Annie Gerardo** asked about the expense of the Archives in Phoenix. She

suggested removing many of the items and downsizing the space in order to reduce the cost of the space. Stephanie responded that SWI pays on a 3-month schedule and we have removed and sold many items that were in the Archives. It was suggested that we give items to the TWA Museum, but she said they do not have the space nor do they want duplicate items. Stephanie also mentioned that SWI records are stored in the Archives.

Committee Reports:

- **Charity** – Pat Perona announced that to date, the charity has received \$8,000 in 2015. In 2014, the charity received \$12,000.
- **Chapters** – Katie Norvell, VP-Chapters, announced that the Chapter Chair Meeting held earlier had gone very well with almost all chapters represented. Her #1 priority this year will be communication with the chapters and encourage more former flight attendants to join SWI.
- **Web Site** – Anita Ridpath announced that we are in the process of building a new web site. She indicated that the current passwords may have to change depending on the sign in procedures designed for the new site. She also announced that SWI will develop a Facebook page and Karen Lance-Feith will manage the content on the page. The hope is more awareness of SWI to retired flight attendants who might not know the organization exists. Member **Julie Blumstein** asked if you had to be on Facebook in order to access the new web site. Anita answered, “No.” **Gretchen Gruenberg** asked about sending photos to Julia Falk for the Book of Memories. Anita answered that members have to send their own photos (TWA graduation and Present) plus name to Julia. Once the book is complete, it will be scanned and put on the web site. She emphasized that the MEMBER must send the photos and information, as Julia will only include what she is sent. **Mimi Smith** asked what the address of the web site is. The web site address is www.twasilverwings.com.
- **Recognition of Chapter Chairs** – Deanna Ayers asked all the Chapter Chairs to stand and be recognized.

New Business:

- **Recognition of New Members:** Deanna Ayers asked any new member to please stand and be recognized.
- **Recognition of Chapter Scarf Donors for Raffle:** Chicago, Phoenix, High Sierra, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Mary Lou Mets-Phipps, Great Lakes, San Diego
- **Nominations for Treasurer and Vice-President, Chapters:** Deanna put into nomination for Treasurer, Stephanie Byrne and Vice-President-Chapters, Katie Norvell. She asked for further nominations from the floor and there being none, Stephanie and Katie were unanimously elected for a two year term.
- **Newsletter:** Deanna had been contacted by Lee Ann Weise, editor of the newsletter, *From the Wings*, notifying her that the deadline for sending photos or

- information for the upcoming newsletter is October 20, 2015. Please be sure that any photos have names included.
- **Search for New President:** Deanna announced that this would be her last year as President of SWI and asked that any interested member please contact her.
- **President's Comments:** Deanna Ayers commented on the number of checks Stephanie is receiving made out to her instead of Silver Wings. Stephanie cannot cash checks made out to her as the bank account is in the name of Silver Wings. She spends time and postage returning these checks. Deanna talked about the problem with the Post Office this past year. Many members waited 45 days or more to receive their directory. She will contact the Post Office/Postmaster to appraise them of the problem in the hope that the same problem will not reoccur next year. Deanna hoped everyone was enjoying the cruise and commented on the issue of late baggage arrival to rooms on Sunday evening, the first day of the cruise. She made the observation that the problem could have been the cruise terminal's handling of the luggage upon check in as opposed to the delivery of the bags by RCCL employees. There was an item listed on the 2014 Statement of Income & Expenses as Convention Income 2015 Prepaid. Stephanie explained that part of this was \$13,000.00 which was prepaid to RCCL in 2013. She also commented that she did not receive some dues checks and asked that in the future members check their bank statements to be sure that the check has been cashed and Stephanie notified. Deanna gave a round of thanks to Mary Klatt, Jane Wilson-Souza, Kay Juhl and Susan Warren who volunteered to man the Crew Lounge during the cruise. She also thanked Brenda Lucas who created the "Anchor Plaque" which has been in the Crew Lounge to be used as a back drop for photos. Deanna announced that the raffle would take place on Saturday, October 10, 2015 at the cocktail party. The second Formal Night on the cruise will be Thursday night, but due to the two dinner seatings and members attending both, the raffle had to be conducted on Saturday night. She also announced that the Crew Lounge would be open on Friday night from 7:00P.M.-8:30P.M.
- **Questions From Members:** **Diana Mellinson** asked why the Board chose a raffle instead of an auction for the scarves and prize money. The answer was that an auction required too many people to implement and we have found in past years that auctions do not bring in as much money as a raffle does. One of the reasons could be that as our membership ages, they have less desire to acquire things and are not willing to bid on items, even if the item has a high monetary value. **Francis Rowling** pointed out that there was an error in the agenda listing the second Formal Night as Friday instead of Thursday. **Vicki McGowen**, our travel consultant, informed the membership that each passenger would receive a Disembarkation Card from RCCL. SWI would be Groups 4 & 5 depending on your room deck. She commented that some problems could be attributed to the port rather than RCCL. Each group will be assigned to a staging area where you will wait until your group number is called. **Karin Hess-Stocker** asked what

time the first bus from the port to Logan Airport would leave. Vicki replied between 8:15-8:45. **Susan Warren** asked about sign up sheets for buses to Logan Airport. Vicki again responded that there would be four buses, each leaving at a different time and going to different terminals. The sign up sheets will be in the Crew Lounge. **Claire Whittaker** inquired if the buses would be going to any location other than the airport or the Embassy Suites. The answer was no. **Liz White** asked whether taxes and gratuities were included in the price of the cruise. Anita responded yes, but you are free to add more if you feel the service of an individual warranted an added gratuity.

Future Conventions:

2016 – Paris Hotel – Las Vegas

2017 – PHL – Deanna and Anita will travel to Philadelphia after the cruise to search for a hotel. Concern is cost as Philadelphia Center City hotels may be out of the price range of many of our members.

Vicki McGowen – Cruise Advisor: Vicki again was available for cruise information and questions from the members. She stated that the negotiated rate for the cruise included gratuities at the rate of \$84.00 per day per stateroom. That includes the room steward, waiters, and wine steward. Vicki explained that each guest would receive Luggage Tags delivered to your stateroom by the room steward. Our SWI Group would be assigned Groups 5 & 6. If you can carry all your own bags, you can exit the ship immediately upon customs clearance. However, if you have checked bags, they will go to areas 5 & 6 in the cruise terminal where you can retrieve your bags and proceed to your next transportation. **Liz White** asked if we would clear customs in Boston and Vicki answered, “Yes.” Vicki also mentioned the RCCL Crown & Anchor Program (Frequent Cruiser Program) which you can join even if you have cruised only once. All you need to join is your name and birthdate. Vicki spoke about the Boston City Tour that some members had signed up for who have later flights. Vicki explained that luggage should be sent to the airport, member goes on the tour and then will be dropped off at the airport. Customs Declarations will be delivered to your stateroom, but there is no Disembarkation Card needed. There is no Global Entry available in Boston. She announced that breakfast will be available on Sunday before disembarking.

Adjourned: 11:25 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Roffe

Valerie Roffe
SWI Secretary