

Mary Washington Elder Study

Membership Committee

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 am by chairperson Pat Parkinson. There were eleven members in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The meeting began by allowing President Chuck Watkins (due to limited time) to present issues regarding new Elder Study website and email options. He stated that hosting of the ElderStudy domain name has been transferred to Webs.com, which currently hosts our website. This provides us with the option to create three email addresses with the ElderStudy.com domain which could be used to send e-blast notices to members, just as Alan Zirkle currently does, but they'd originate from elderstudy.com, rather than a personal email address. A drawback is that only 50 can be sent at a time, so the user would have to send five emails to reach all current members.

Chuck reported that Alan Zirkle made several suggestions to enhance the appearance of the mobile version of our website, but these could not be implemented due to the default edit settings. The cost to upgrade and have full control over the appearance of the mobile website is \$22 extra per month. At this time, Membership committee did not feel that the site was unfriendly and did not support adding the \$22/month extra charge.

Regarding all of the above Chuck asked MC two questions about the domain:

- 1) If MC would like to secure use of one of those email addresses, e.g., Membership@ElderStudy.com?
- 2) If MC should or should not pay \$80 to retain the domain name elderstudy.org. The need to move to ".org" was not felt necessary at this time. We wondered whether we could be more specific in our current ".com" name? For example, could we become mwelderstudy.com to further protect our name? At that point, if Membership is considered one of the three priorities, we will discuss moving forward with this email feature.

MC recommended that the BOD make the decision regarding the three prevailing needs for this email opportunity. The committee decided that these issues were TBD revisited in the future.

The committee would like to express our sincere thanks to Anne McGrath and her grandson for helping us to transfer hosting of our domain name and all of the other guidance they have provided. Committee members were encouraged to provide feedback to Alan regarding the newly revised curriculum webpage appearance and ease of use, if they have not already done so.

New Chairperson

The committee supports the name of Donna Lewis as the new Membership Committee Chair. We would like to thank Pat Parkinson for her guidance and dedication to this committee during her two years as chairperson and her many years on the committee.

Old Business

Patricia Parkinson submitted the February Members Committee suggestions Appendix G and Section G of the ES Policy and Procedures. The MC committee representative was to have submitted those suggestions to the February Administrative committee. John Thompson requested a copy of the changes, using the exact recommended words, be submitted on a copy of the P and P. Pat said she'd respond to John's request.

New Business

Budget

No changes were recommended to the budget for the 2016-17 year.

Spring Appreciation Luncheon

It was decided that there was no need for a theme for the luncheon. Members are asked to assist with set up on May 17, at 1 pm. Carolyn Sulima will make the punch (with Dottie Meyers' recipe.) Some should plan to arrive at 10 am on May 18 for last minute preparations. Connie Brady will purchase the paper products and plastic ware for the luncheon. Carolyn will ask Chuck Watkins to make coffee. Please note that the luncheon is scheduled to begin on May 18, at 11:30 am.

Art of Aging Expo

Peggy Verdine will represent us on June 8 at this expo. She has updated the PowerPoint and will set up the display. She would welcome some volunteers to assist her for part of the day. Set up is at 8:30 am. There will also be a display at Regency (Chancellorsville) on April 30, to be staffed by members who are community residents.

Reports

Peggy Gratz reported that 11 UMW retiring faculty will receive letters of invitation to join Elder Study.

Dottie Meyers reported that the deadline for submitting articles to the August newsletter will be July 20.

We decided to change the meeting time for the Membership Committee on August 31, to begin at 10 am.

We will continue to examine the issue of getting nametags to new members.