

WOW Minutes
September 15, 2022

Members present – Alice Adams, Becca Swanger, Becky Benhart, Carolyn Moncada, Ginger Galati, Jessi Stone, Melissa Benhart, Melissa Helmer, Michelle Jacobs, Sam Edwards, Shirley McKinney, Teri Domagalski, Virginia Wall, Whitney Burton, Shannon Wilson

Location – Frog Level Brewery

President's Report

President Michelle Jacobs welcomed new member Whitney Burton to the organization.

Calendar updates – All calendar ads have now been sold. Vice-president Amanda Hanson is completing designs for the last couple of ad sponsors. There is no print date currently.

Apple Harvest Festival – Katie Vanderpool will once again send the sign-up sheet to staff shifts for calendar sales at the festival. Staffing is still needed at the end of the day and for booth breakdown.

Jessi Stone, as chair of Communication Committee, agreed to order posters for the apple festival. She will coordinate with Amanda Hanson to receive the proofs to be used for posters.

Board Retreat – The annual meeting of the WOW board will be held this coming Saturday, September 17. Among other issues, the board will address a realignment of duties among the established committees. They will also examine any needed changes to the organization's bylaws.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer Ginger Galati reported that WOW made a \$250 donation to the Trout Race, which will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters.

WOW received a \$200 donation for Michelle Jacobs' volunteer hours.

WOW committees – budget requests from each committee will be discussed at the Board retreat.

Bonfire t-shirt fundraiser – Ginger informed members who ordered WOW shirts through the bulk order process to submit a check for their merchandise.

Unfinished Business

Darkside belly dancing event – Members are reminded that WOW will be the beneficiary of the event. It will be held on November 5 at the Bryson City Art Center. WOW members are needed to sell calendars and merchandise. Jessi Stone volunteered to set up ticket sales through Event Brite to sell tickets beforehand. The ticket cost is \$10. Mary Ann Lawrence will put the event on the WOW website. Jessi Stone will take responsibility for printing flyers. Volunteers are needed to sell calendars at the event.

Power of Pink – Melissa Benhart has once again taken a leadership role in this event. It will be held on September 24. Let Melissa know if you would like to participate.

Committee Reports

Stealth and Community Outreach - Ginger Galati and Alice Adams stated that the Stealth and Community Outreach committee has a meeting with Ann Marie Robinson, the new volunteer coordinator at Pathways, to discuss volunteering opportunities with Pathways. Ginger distributed a flyer that lists different opportunities for volunteering there, both as an organization and individually.

In other news, one person reached out through the Stealth program to request assistance in the amount of \$700 for rent; Reach provided her with utilities assistance. Ginger Galati also reported that a former stealth recipient Tina S., who was a resident at Pathways for 6 months, is now living in an apartment at the former Waynesville hospital building which is now a residential facility that primarily serves the veteran and elderly populations.

Communication and Public Relations – Mary Ann Lawrence was recognized for her outstanding service in updating and refreshing the WOW website and public Facebook page. Thank you, Mary Ann!

Members Corner

Michelle Jacobs expressed an interest in having merchandise for sale at various events as part of our fundraising. Among the items of interest are “Friends of WOW” t-shirts as well as stickers. She requested members send suggestions for manufacturers who might be able to provide these items at a reasonable cost.

Executive Officer Virginia Wall asked about the status of a member Halloween party. Member Becca Swanger volunteered to research different events that are taking place locally around the Halloween holiday. Member Jessi Stone reported that the Waynesville Housing Authority is planning a late afternoon event for children on Halloween day.

Carolyn Moncada shared her interest in moving forward with the Waynesville holiday parade and WOW holiday party. The parade is scheduled for December 5. Carolyn stated she is willing to take the leadership role to organize the event.

Michelle Jacobs stated the WOW holiday party will be held on December 10, after taking a poll of the members who were present. New member Whitney Burton volunteered to research possible venues and explore the services they offer along with the costs.

Meeting location – Michelle is hopeful that at-large board member Betty Richardson will be able to secure a more permanent location for membership meetings, but she stated we all have a role to play in seeking options. New member Whitney Burton offered to reach out to an acquaintance at the Waynesville Recreation Center to learn more about their meeting rooms.

Carolyn Moncada again suggested the Valley Tavern in Maggie Valley. Hence, the October 6 meeting will be held at Valley Tavern.

In response to a question by Carolyn Moncada, Michelle Jacobs stated that all members are responsible for participating actively in the tasks associated with the organization regardless of committee affiliation. Although each committee has a division of responsibilities, realistically, every member is expected to step up.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Domagalski
Secretary

Next meeting – October 6, 2022, at Valley Tavern in Maggie Valley

Action Items:

1. Apple Harvest Festival calendar booth – **Katie Vanderpool** is to send the volunteer sheet for additional members to sign up for a time slot. **Jessi Stone** will order the posters for the booth.
2. Darkside Belly Dance event – **Jessi Stone** will (a) print out flyers; (b) set up a ticket sales process in Event Brite
3. Holiday socials and events – **Becca Swanger** will research and report on different Halloween events scheduled locally; **Whitney Burton** is to research and report on possible venues and associated services and costs for WOW's winter holiday social.
4. Waynesville holiday parade along Main Street – **Carolyn Moncada** is to obtain and report on details about the event
5. WOW merchandise ("Friends of WOW" t-shirts/clothing; stickers) - **Any/all members** are invited to explore possible vendors/manufacturers who can produce WOW merchandise at a reasonable cost.