

WOW Minutes

August 4, 2022

Members present – Alice Adams, Betty Richardson, Cathy Sanders, Dove McNamee, Ginger Galati, Jessi Stone, Joy Johnson, Julie Keiper, Mary Ann Lawrence, Pam Schiavo, Savanna Rickman, Shirley McKinney, Teri Domagalski, Virginia Wall

Guest – Sherri Williams

Secretary Teri Domagalski recited the WOW mission.

President's Report

Note: In the absence of both the President and Vice-President, Secretary Teri Domagalski facilitated the meeting.

Teri invited guest Sherri Williams to introduce herself. She learned about Women of Waynesville from a recent news article. Sherri was welcomed by members to this evening's meeting.

Calendar updates – Teri and Executive Officer Virginia Wall reported that all photo shoots have been completed for the 2023 calendar and approximately 80% of the planner photo shots are finished. Virginia reported that eight (8) ads are assured but a couple of them have a financial balance outstanding. Virginia stated the Sourced restaurant has extended an invitation for WOW to set up a table outside the restaurant to sell calendars.

Other ad solicitations pending are Jessi Stone who plans to contact Waynesville Yoga, Jessi will check with Amanda Williamson on the status of three organizations she has targeted for solicitations, Ginger Galati will be approaching the Wine Cellar, and Alice Adams plans reach out to Blue Ridge Books. WOW's guest suggested that someone contact Watami restaurant as another potential source.

Old Business

Teri queried members about their level of interest in accepting Will White's invitation to conduct a day-long self-defense training through his business, Piked Antler. Including the guest who stated she would invite two others, a total of six were interested. WOW will survey the rest of the members to determine whether to move forward with the idea.

New Business

Committees – committee chairs were asked to describe the tasks and duties of their respective committees: Finance (Ginger Galati), Communication and Public Relations (Jessi Stone), Stealth and Community Outreach (Alice Adams), Fundraising and Logistics (Virginia Wall) and Membership and Morale (Betty Richardson).

Members were extended an opportunity to change committees this evening. From among members present, the self-selections are as follows:

Finance – Savanna Rickman

Fundraising and Logistics – Melissa Benhart (co-chair), Shirley McKinney, Savanna Rickman

Communications and Public Relations – Mary Ann Lawrence, Cathy Sanders, Teri Domagalski

Stealth and Community Outreach – Ginger Galati

Membership and Morale – Joy Johnson, Julie Keiper, Pam Schiavo, Shirley McKinney

Members absent this evening who may remain on their current committee (below), or change are:

Fundraising and Logistics – Elise Radney, Carolyn Moncada

Communications and Public Relations – Cheryl Beatty

Stealth and Community Outreach – Becky Benhart, Becca Swanger, Linda Lamp

Membership and Morale – Sam Edwards, Melissa Helmer, Katie Vanderpool, Amanda Williamson

Members who are not represented above were not listed on the committees spreadsheet and may identify and inform the secretary of their selection.

Potential donation recipients and potential service projects – Members offered several ideas for where WOW might consider either making a financial donation or provide service to an organization.

1. Teri stated that a series of articles have been published in the Mountaineer newspaper on the topic of youth mental health issues that have emerged during the coronavirus pandemic. Teri informed members that she plans to contact the author of these articles to ask whether there may be something WOW can do to assist in addressing this issue.
2. Teri spoke on behalf of At-large officer Sam Edwards, who identified a possible funding opportunity for patients being discharged from the Behavioral Health unit of the hospital as there may be a need for supplies of personal effects when they are facing discharge. Sam will explore this further.
3. Executive officer Virginia Wall expressed interest in setting aside some funds for the Stealth program in anticipation of community members who may be facing electricity cutoff with the expiration of the pandemic-related moratorium on utilities cancellations. Member Jessi Stone shared that water bills may also be worth consideration now that people are applying to Mountain Projects for relief as they are facing water cutoff. Jessi suggested that perhaps WOW could earmark funding for families with children. She agreed to investigate the needs and the costs associated with this situation and will report back to the group.
4. Alice Adams and Ginger Galati will contact the new volunteer coordinator at Pathways to see if there is a need and an opportunity for WOW to organize a time to prepare and serve a meal to residents as a service activity.
5. At-large officer Betty Richardson expressed an interest in having WOW consider a service project for the “Babies need bottoms” program. This program is based in

Asheville and looking to expand into Haywood County. If accepted by membership, Betty envisions WOW would be a lead that would partner with other service organizations such as Reach, Pathways, local churches, or MANNA, to collect and distribute diapers to parents in need. Pathways and Reach have storage space that can be made available for diaper storage.

Members Corner

Mary Ann Lawrence provided an update of her work with the WOW website and social media. She is in the process of setting up a “news hub” on the website where fresh articles will be written and posted. The first article was written by Alice Adams on the theme of the service activities that WOW members perform and volunteer their time to, and the next article will address the multi-generational nature of WOW’s membership. Alice’s article has been posted on WOW’s public Facebook page and will be placed on the WOW website soon. Mary Ann encourages members to consider writing an article as this news hub evolves.

Teri Domagalski reported on behalf of member Katie Vanderpool, who was absent, that sign-up sheets were available for members to volunteer at the Back-to-School Resource Fair August 28th and the preparation day on August 24. In addition, a volunteer sign-up sheet was available to set-up, staff, and take-down a booth at the Apple Harvest Fair to sell calendars. The date is October 15.

Betty Richardson let members know that she initiated a food donation program after witnessing the Meadowlark Motel dispose of untouched, uneaten food products. Betty has been coordinating delivery of the leftover food to places such as Reach domestic violence shelter residents and Cruso flood victims.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Domagalski
Secretary