

Wow Minutes: 1-18-24

Present:

Katie V, Becca, Joy, Michelle, Jessi, Virginia, Shirley, Ginger

Becca started the meeting at 6:04 and distributed the WoW event calendar through March 2024 including meeting dates, socials and volunteer events.

Announcements: Becca shared Folkmoot is having a Groundhog Day open house event on Friday 2/2/24 from 5-7pm we were invited to participate in and will be using to recruit new members, so members should encourage those who might be interested in joining WoW to attend. We will be selling calendars at a reduced rate. Virginia shared details of setup, including having a table and welcoming people into the room. We asked Communications committee to put out a post/flyer to announce and make it a mini membership drive. Ginger sent out a sign up sheet and requested members email to confirm if they are interested.

Jessi shared updates on Mardi Gras, in that we do not have a candidate this year, but we will purchase a table, half of the cost of which goes into our scholarship fund. There will not be candidates at all this year, but we were asked to provide entertainment. We will have our past queens (minus Becca) performing. Jessi proposed we perform Dolly Parton's "9 to 5" and wear Dolly Parton wigs and whoever wants to participate/perform is welcome. There was a sign up sheet passed around for the table and if members want to perform as well. Email Jessi if you want to perform/attend. Jessi indicated we should expect to get applications for our scholarship in April.

Ginger shared that there is \$7303 that needs to be moved into our account (previous balance was \$3000) for our scholarship fund. We now have approximately \$11000 in the account. Ginger will follow up on any outstanding scholarship recipients. Ginger shared online calendars are now discounted to \$20.

Virginia shared she got a part time job at Haywood Pathways center in case management, and she shared they have a listing online of all the items they need that members can see and donate. She also shared when someone is moving out, they post online what someone needs, so if you ever have a piece of furniture you want to donate, you can contact them to do so.

Jessi also noted that the Pigeon Center may need some supplies and proposed a possible stealth mission to offer hand soap and paper towels and support the after school programs. It was proposed to offer that we have some supplies if they need them, and Jessi will reach out.

Committee Updates:

Calendar: The committee asked for suggestions from members for a theme and received 3 suggestions outside of committee and narrowed down a top 2 which were voted on by the board- our 2025 calendar theme will be a "Goddess Theme." It was proposed to make

preparations/crafting for the calendar shoots (specifically crowns) a social event. A sign up sheet was passed around if members are interested in being a goddess in the calendar (see example photos below). Email Becca if you are interested! Becca shared the committee discussed giving direction about the calendar in an effort to be cohesive in our design. We will try and sell the remainder of the calendars at the Membership drive at the new \$20 price.

Communications and PR committee members were not present, but Becca shared they are working on a newsletter and posting Facebook events. Becca asked members to share the events on their pages/Folkmoor for the Groundhog day event.

Stealth/outreach: Whitney will be our speaker at our first February meeting about her organization and adoption and foster care services.

Ginger shared we had a stealth request from someone in a DV situation who went to REACH and between Mountain Projects and REACH we will cover the deposit for the rental and utilities-\$450 from WoW. A vote was taken and unanimous to approve the request. A second stealth request is in process for a family that was living in a grandmother's house that was too small for their 3 kids as right now the 3 kids are sharing a bedroom (including of both genders). They found a rental double wide and were approved. The two parents started jobs recently after some recent challenges and they were able to raise money from other sources. The rent is \$1200 a month and the deposit will be \$1200- we would pay \$350. Stealth has not yet had a vote on the request while the family works with the landlord to determine if a payment plan is possible.

Ginger attended a Renting 101 class today and shared that for rentals, you can "have two heartbeats per bedroom." Legal Aid NC has a housing attorney for anyone in need that we can refer to.

Fundraising: Jessi shared that fundraising collected feedback to determine a spring fundraiser. One option was doing a fundraiser at Boojum in the Gem for a Feel Good Friday event supporting Baby Needs Bottoms.

A second was to plan an event for Vicky Gribble and possibly doing a dinner/food event. Third was a fundraiser for REACH/ KARE and fundraising cuts they have experienced.

Babies Need Bottoms was the top pick, and Jessi and Ginger have been in touch, and shared the effort to earmark funds we raise for Haywood county. Right now there are area partners who work with them and could partner for Haywood County (including Haywood DHHS). They are weary of taking on a partner who has a huge need because they want to sustain the need, so they would like to select a smaller partner. Jessi reached out to Alicia and is connecting her to someone at Pathways and Reach. We would need to go to Asheville monthly/quarterly to pick up diapers and plan for storage with a community partner. She also shared items they need including pull-ups and wipes. We can also set up distribution boxes. Jessi will be facilitating introductions between area partners. Jessi also reached out to Kelly at Boojum about dates for a fundraiser.

Membership and Morale: Katie shared details of the spa night at Katie's house 1/26/24 at 6:30pm and shared that it will be skin care focused and members are asked to bring \$5 to bring, which will be donated to the Mary Kay foundation that goes toward cancer research and helping to end domestic violence. Members can bring cash, check or Venmo Katie directly.

Our 2/7 event is scheduled to take place at Bosu's 6-9pm(discussed options in meeting and determined we would go with Bosu's after the meeting with member feedback and receiving quotes from Bosu's and Goldenrod wine bars.). There will be charcuterie boards provided with gluten free options, dessert, and a nonalcoholic punch, and members can purchase wine. If members are interested, they can contact Melissa Helmer to RSVP or RSVP to the Facebook invitation. Ginger also suggested the possibility of inviting a couple area partners for community outreach for a future social event.

Membership and morale can submit a budget for other social events

Becca adjourned meeting at 7:11pm