

MINUTES OF MEETING

On Tuesday, October 5, 2021, the DOTRA Directors held a Board meeting at Tessara Restaurant. After establishing that there was a quorum and following the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order at 11:05 am by President Clinton Griggs. The following were in attendance:

Mike Eckel	Frank Stia	Clinton Griggs	Sandy Furness
Dave Bizuga	Jay Johnston	Bob Miller	John Raniero
Andrea Mansfield	Janice DeJohn	Frank Palise	Janis Stia

These Directors were absent: Ann Fratticcioli, Donna Troiano, Joe Bodnar. Jim Dixon attended as a volunteer.

The minutes of the 9/07/21 meeting were received and approved as distributed. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Janis Stia and seconded by Mike Eckel.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report was presented by Dave Bizuga. Balance as of 9/30/2021 was \$14,719.51, including \$3,935.94 in the checking account. A motion to accept the report was made by Frank Stia and seconded by Bob Miller. The report was filed for audit.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Janis Stia reported that there were two new annual members joining during September. There were two new life member requests. Income was \$345.00 from eight renewals, one conversion from annual to life membership and 4 new member's dues received in September. Janis moved that we accept the membership applications from Dawn Hatch (annual), Bhupendra Shah (life), Noreen Cardinali (life) and Stacy Devlin (annual). Andrea Mansfield seconded and the motion passed. During a discussion, it was reiterated that new members who join in October, November and December will have their dues applied to the following year. New members should be reminded that their checks may not be cashed for several weeks and it was noted that sometimes members pay in advance, sending \$20. or \$30. Those payments are applied to upcoming year(s).

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Nominating Committee – With the passing of Gerry, there are now 15 Board members for 2020/2021. Janice DeJohn volunteered to assume the position that Gerry held, that of 2nd Vice President. She will fill in for President Clint, in the event he is absent. A motion was made by Dave to accept this nomination and seconded by Janis and the motion carried.

By-Laws –Janice DeJohn recently updated the bylaws, so there was nothing new to report.

Website – Ann Fratticcioli was absent so there was no report. It was noted that the website continues to move along and she is updating information as needed, including any links to other websites of interest to our membership.

Employee Memorial Committee – Janice DeJohn reported that there has not been a recent meeting of the EMC; DOTer Meg Frampton is keeping the committee going. Due to the pandemic, most EMC activities have been terminated, except for the Memorial Ceremony each September. After some discussion, Janice moved that DOTRA assume responsibility for the memorial area. The grounds are maintained by the DOT headquarters landscapers and Meg will be our liaison. We will continue to pursue a memorandum of understanding with a sign-off from the Commissioner, and DOTRA will maintain the established bank account and coordinate the annual Memorial Ceremony. Janice will prepare a new by-law. The motion was seconded by Andrea and the motion passed.

The annual Memorial Ceremony was held on Friday September 10 at 9:30 am in the DOT headquarters memorial area. It was well-attended and several past Commissioners and the current DOT Commissioner attended. This year, 2021, is the 20th anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center, Shanksville, PA and the Pentagon.

At this time, it is planned that NJDOT employees will return to the office full time in mid October.

Historian – Mike Eckel has written an article for the November issue on the history of DOT maritime resources.

Chaplain – Jay Johnston, acting Chaplain until a permanent chaplain is found, reported that former DOT employees Gerry Sellner*, Joan Maloney, James Gould, Seth Barton*, and Joe Sentak have recently passed away. The November issue of DOTLine will contain a full list of DOT employees, retired and current, who died during 2021. Frank Palise volunteered to assume the responsibilities of Chaplain once again.

* denotes DOTRA member.

Audit – The Audit Committee has completed its work for this year. Nothing to report until Spring 2022.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Fall Picnic— The picnic was held at Rosedale Park on Wednesday, September 8. Twenty-nine people attended. The day was beautiful and everyone had a lovely time catching up with former workmates. The leftover desserts and soft drinks were given to the Hun School cross-country team which was running nearby. They were consumed happily! The picnic was a BYOFood event and DOTRA purchased the beverages at a cost of \$48.32 and desserts were donated by several attendees to share.

Holiday Luncheon-- Janis Stia re-confirmed our reservation for December 8th for our annual luncheon at Mercer Oaks. A flyer with full details will be included in the November DOTLine. All plans are subject to change due to any new COVID restrictions. According to Mercer Oaks, the cost is up \$1.00 and we must guarantee 50 attendees @ \$33. Ann will send out an e-mail blast and/or a post on FaceBook to get a rough headcount. If we are a few shy of the 50, DOTRA will cover the cost, rather than cancel the event. A general, anecdotal discussion of COVID 19 experiences took place. Cost will be \$38.00 to each attendee. Final date for reservation is TBD.

Happy Hour—Happy Hour at Mastoris Diner VIBE lounge has resumed and all members are encouraged to attend at 5 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month. There are reduced priced drinks and a free food buffet. Next Happy Hour is Thursday October 28.

TRIPS—No trips are being planned currently.

OLD BUSINESS: Janice is preparing an up-dated “task chart”. Three people are needed for the Audit committee. Janice (chair), Sandy Furness, John Raniero volunteered and Treasurer Dave Bizuga will coordinate.

The Credit Union confirmed that all is in order for Dave to be the new treasurer. All other old business was covered in the committee reports.

NEW BUSINESS : Board members were reminded that articles for the November DOTLine must be received by Sandy Furness by October 15.

Since there was no additional business to report or act on, a motion to close the meeting was made by Mike and seconded by Bob and the motion passed. Clint adjourned the meeting at 11:58 am.

The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday November 2, election day, at Tessara. The DOTLine will be prepared for mailing at the close of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Mansfield

Recording Secretary