

QUIMPER CLUB INTERNATIONAL
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
QUIMPER, FRANCE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

Caroline Mann, first vice resident called the meeting to order at 9:35 am, She read a welcome message from Patricia Hull, our president, who was unable to be with us. The message was read in English only. This is our fifth meeting in France and our third in Quimper.

We were welcomed by this year's hosts, Anne Marie O'Neill and Suzanne Vallerand. Suzanne noted that both Judy Datesman and Anne Marie worked very hard on this meeting.

Lucy Williams presented founder's remarks, which incorporated Katie Sledge who was cofounder with Lucy. Lucy remarked that we have all done something for the club and that we thrive due to volunteers. There are more of us out there. She suggested we buy Breton figures and give them as gifts to infect friends with our enthusiasm. We should tell everyone about Quimper Pottery. She thanked us all for our continuing interest.

Secretary's report: Minutes from 2017 business meeting were not read as everyone has received copies online, but they were approved. We have a total 184 members up from 180 last year. We were still receiving new and renewing members up to the day before the trip. New members this year include: Elizabeth Kleber; Cyrena Nolan; Mary and Darrell Hansen; Chad Lucas; Wanda and Richard Porter; Victoria Severson; Janet Wynn; Danielle(Dana) Gerberi; Cynthia Price (Peter Ramsey's sister); Carol Rockwell. The last four are on this trip. Other first time attenders are: Tony Graviano; Siobhan McCarthy; Annaick Le Roux and Erwan Nedelec. Returning members are: Debbie Wiggins; Nina Slonaker; Liz Wright ; Donna Walker; Carol and Norman Kirschbaum. Welcome all!

Secretary made her usual request that members send paperwork with current information to her even though renewing through Paypal as it helps to keep records and information up to date. If there are any changes during the year, please inform the secretary so that you will continue to receive emails and Le Journal. Address: Sherry Lohnes, QCI secretary, 1493 Ocean Blvd, Rye New Hampshire 03870.

Treasurer's report: Peter Ramsey paid some of the expenses for the cruise meeting. Thank you Peter. The treasury report goes from Jan 1 to the end of December, so some expenses end up in the following year. John Horstmann questioned how the members will see the reports going forth. Suzanne said that she can put them on the members only part of the website. Gay pointed out that

the board had voted to have a yearly audit and she wondered when it was last done. Gay suggested we budget for an audit. Suzanne stated that the amount of money per year is less than \$10,000 therefore we are not required to report it to the IRS. We have never been in the red. The bylaws do not state that we need an audit. Going forward we will commit to doing an audit as voted by former board or redo that vote. Jim Borthwick suggested a review by an outside auditor not an actual audit, which is pricey. Discussion of IRS reports and expectations ensued. Caroline said she would follow up on better communication, hopefully once a month between board and members. We have already agreed to look at Bank of America costs for our group.

New Business:

1. Amending of By-Laws. Board recommended the amending of the by-laws to make the elections work better and will approve once members are able to review the proposal. The membership must be given 30 days to review the proposal and comment on it. We also want to change how we keep ballots. Currently, by-laws state that we keep postal ballots only and we want to change to keeping email ballots as well. Voting changes will be to have 3 board members elected each election rather than all being elected at the same time. Three current board members will serve an additional year to balance this out. We have term limits and three officers are at their term limits. This suggestion is being made so as not to have all new board members at the same time, thereby having no one knowing what has gone on before. We are also proposing to change the nominating committee to broaden selection, from the past three presidents to include other committee members or board members, appointed by the president. Feedback at meeting was positive, though there was concern that it would not allow new blood to become involved. Gay thinks we should be more assertive in involving new members at meetings. Board will send out these proposed changes to membership for comment. Slate of officers needs to be presented to membership 45 days before election. There was a question of how long ballots should be held.
2. Brief discussion about attracting new members. John Cox asked if we have small ads in antique papers. Talked about ways of promoting meetings, membership such as Pinterest, Facebook. Perhaps some new members could help us with this.
3. Discussion of future meetings: Discussed what format we should have. Should the meetings be shorter and less of a trip with side attractions as desired. Are we a business meeting or a travel group? Business meeting does not have to be part of a travel program.

That said, we had a presentation of the 2019 meeting in Philadelphia, by John and Helen Horstmann. Possible dates are September 18-22 or September 25-29. We will stay at the Hotel Sofitel. We will visit the new American Revolution Museum, Independence Hall and Magic Garden on the first day. The Foxes will open their home to view their collection. Second day, we can go to the Barnes Museum with a guided tour; The Rodin Museum. Other choices are the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Philadelphia. Most venues are within walking distance of the hotel.

Discussed possibility of 2020 in Miami. The Epsteins have volunteered to host this one, so we did decide to let them look into the possibilities. There was some concern as to what activities and collections are available there. Again discussed different possibilities for trips, perhaps going to a convention city such as Las Vegas, or short trips with members choosing their own activities aside from the business meeting. We talked about doing a survey with members using Survey Monkey. We talked about business meeting, faience sale and dinner being expected and that the rest is not a requirement. Anne Marie suggested a faience Museum in Italy that could be the base for a meeting.

4. The PB collection of the Breton Museum can be easily accessed online Judy Datesman will send us the link.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:55 am.

Sherry Lohnes
Secretary

Patricia Hull
President