

Newcomers Meeting – 3/17/08

President Mark McGrath called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. with a St. Patrick's Day greetings and thanks to the Hospitality members: Carole and Ted Wojnarowski and the Greeters: Anne and Rich Stawiarski. He introduced the 400th member and invited members to recruit new members.

Treasurer Mike Cimini reported again that the club was "in good financial shape" with \$5,000 in the bank, no bills, and a working capital of \$4,400. He attributed the soundness to the participation of the members in club-sponsored activities.

Vice-President Jerry Lima reminded members of the Spring Fling dinner dance to be held at the Wequassett Inn on 4-20-08, which was so successful last year. Mark added that singles and conch were also invited to attend and enjoy the festivities, highlighted by a repeat performance by Freddy and the Maybellines.

Trip Organizer Dave Ryer spoke about the 3 upcoming trips: Drowsy Chaperone (\$72. p.p./sold out again/ wait list available), the Boston Pops (\$70.p.p.), and Historic Salem (\$82.p.p.).

Activities Chair Betty Hann thanked Catherine Clark for organizing the Gourmet dinners and Pat Sarantis for leading the Winter Hikes. She also credited the Woodworking group for their charitable donations and congratulated the Spelling Bee members. There will be 3 more winter hikes, ending when Biking begins. See Charlie Moeder's calendar on the web for additional information about the 26 activities offered.

President McGrath reminded the group that the Newcomer year runs from September to June, and that new officers for the upcoming year will be discussed by the Nominating Committee, which consists of Dave Ryer, Eve Dalmolen, Jerry Lima, and Gertrud Frelicheh. The new slate of officers will be voted on the next meeting.

A "new annual event," begun last year, will be the freshman picnic, with Conch and Newcomers clubs jointly involved. Because the Cape Cod Sea Camps has no liquor license, it will probably not be the choice for the event. Mark reported the 11 out of the 26 activities offered by this club are now combined with Conch.

Jack Wyatt spoke in behalf of the Harwich Food Pantry, substituting for Mary Anderson. He mentioned the upcoming Wine Tasting on May 18th at the Barnstable Restaurant and Tavern, with a live and silent auction, sponsored by the Pantry. Cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door, benefiting the charity.

In addition, the Pantry gained \$47,000. in bottle and can collections last year, and \$20,000. from the Second Glance Thrift Shop, located on Cross Street.

Jim Rappolt invited members to join the Senior Summer Softball leagues. There are 4 age groups, and try-outs will be held the week of 4-19. Also, the Men's Cooking Group is

looking for additional members and will hold a Beer and Burger Luncheon on 4-23. Contact Charlie Moeder for more information.

From the Chatham Historical Society, Betsy Stevens reviewed the history of the Atwood House Museum. She added that new displays are being offered, and that even though the museum is closed during the winter, volunteers are needed year round, and they can make their own schedules.

Oz Osbourne from the Rose Society informed members of a meeting for gardeners interested in making a compost bin on 3-29 at 10 A.M. at the Harwich Community Center. In addition, fourteen seats are available on June 7 for a trip to the New York Botanical Garden (\$45.p.p.).

Speaking for Linda Johnson, Mark reviewed a list of computer classes being offered by the Harwich Council on Aging.

Harwich selectman, Larry Cole, appealed to the audience to consider volunteering to fill the many vacancies in the town. He added that advisory boards are necessary to run our local government and to implement local bylaws.

Two representatives from the Heritage Museum and Gardens, Babs Eldridge and Charlene Johnson, entertained the crowd with a colorful and informational slide show featuring different venues of the museum and garden, along with a short history of the same. The Sandwich site will be open April 1st through October 31st, with a special exhibit on Pirates of New England. A short quiz on the presentation followed, with free admission passes as prizes.

Two additional new members were introduced by President McGrath before the meeting was adjourned at 11:16.

Submitted by,
Carole Wojnarowski, secretary