

## **Minutes for VRA Mid-West Chapter Meeting Monday, March 7, 2005 VRA Annual Conference 2005 in Miami, Florida**

**Present:** Emy Decker, Jane Darcovich, Heidi Eyestone, Jane Ferger, Leigh Gates, Dennis McGuire, Rebecca Moss, Heidi Raatz, Jennifer Roth, Cheryl Vogler, Jodie Walz, and Betha Whitlow.

### **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Betha Whitlow called the meeting to order at 5:45pm. She welcomed everyone to the VRA Midwest spring chapter meeting. The meeting was held at the Seabreeze at the Miami Conference hotel. All present introduced themselves.

### **II. Review and Approve Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Jane Ferger presented the secretary/treasurer's report. The report states all the account activity through Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2005. The fall balance was \$814.19. We did donate \$250.00 to the VRA 2005 annual conference; the money was directed to cover general operating expenses associated with the conference. We had a deposit for fall meeting registrations of \$85.00. We also had two deposits for 2005 memberships of \$80.00 and \$30.00. Current balance is \$759.19. The appetizers for the spring meeting will be covered by the chapter with the amount to be charged to the chapter will be \$50.00; our balance will then be \$709.19. Currently we have 12 memberships for 2005 and we will continue to take memberships throughout the year. We have one new member to the chapter. If any members know if others who would benefit from belonging to the chapter, please either contact them or direct them to the website. Betha asked for a motion to approve the secretary/ treasurer's report. Rebecca Moss motioned to approve the secretary/treasurer's report and Dennis McQuire seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

### **III. Review and Approve Fall 2004 Minutes**

The minutes from the fall 2004 meeting were distributed and read. Jane Darcovich mentioned that although Jane Goldberg could not attend the meeting, she would like to remain on the nominating committee. Betha asked if there were any questions to the minutes; there were none. Betha asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Leigh Gates motioned to approve the minutes and Heidi Raatz seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed.

### **IV. Discussion of the Chapter Travel Award**

Our membership fees are still coming in and we will likely generate some money from the fall conference so we will likely have enough money in our account to offer both the Midwest Travel Award and again donate to the annual conference. The first question Betha posed is whether the chapter would like to offer a Travel Award again in the fall. Rebecca Moss motioned that we do offer the Travel Award again, and Heidi Raatz seconded the motion. Betha mentioned that the Travel Award is \$250.00. All were in favor, none were opposed. The money from the VRA Midwest Travel Award can either be used toward the Midwest fall chapter meeting or may be used to supplement the costs of the VRA annual conference in the spring. The chapter does have an application process for those interested in applying for the travel award. Betha then asked the chapter, should we prioritize the Travel Award and the conference donation should in the future we have a tight year. Rebecca states that she rather see the conference donation be a first priority since if attending the annual conference and the Tansey dinner, that too benefits the Travel Awards. Others felt the Travel Award should be prioritized over the conference donation, primarily because it is a great incentive to be a member and is a great member benefit; for \$10 (and soon to be \$15) members have the opportunity to apply for the \$250 Travel Award. After a bit of discussion, the chapter felt, if necessary, the Midwest Travel Award should be the first priority. Betha also mentioned that we are in good standing for being able to offer both in the coming year, and we may not need to prioritize. Betha also mentioned that our bank balance is healthy and we may be able to offer both. Heidi Raatz mentioned that it is good for our chapter's visibility that, when we can afford it, we donate to the annual conference as it too is good PR for our chapter. Betha mentioned maybe we could decide on a yearly basis. We can discuss this again at the fall meeting. Jane Darcovich mentioned that we could earmark our donation to the annual conference for the Tansy Travel Award and then the money goes back into travel awards. Betha asked for getting a nominating committee together for the Midwest Travel Award. She mentioned that last time Jodie Walz and Brooke Cox served on the committee. Betha and Rebecca agreed to be on the nominating committee in the coming year. Heidi moved to have a committee to handle the travel awards, and Jane Darcovich seconded the motion. All were in favor, none were opposed.

## **V. Discussion of Fall 2005 Meeting**

Betha mentioned that the fall 2004 meeting was in Minneapolis and it was a huge success. It was the first time the chapter held the fall meeting in Minneapolis. Betha mentioned that we have been having quite a few of the fall meetings in Chicago. We need to discuss where to have the meeting in the fall. Leigh Gates suggested we have the meeting in Bloomington; Betha mentioned that Eileen was interested in offering a CCO workshop. Heidi Raatz mentioned that we may want to consider having a meeting in Milwaukee at some point. Betha mentioned that we currently do not have any members from the Milwaukee area. Jane Ferger mentioned that maybe we have the fall meeting in both Indianapolis and Bloomington; the IMA will be back open and will have the International Arts and Crafts exhibition. Betha asked whether our chapter would want to meet with other chapters or possibly with an ARLIS chapter; we would likely have to split fees if we met with another chapter. Betha will look into a joint meeting with other chapters, but we will plan to have the meeting in both Indianapolis and Bloomington in the fall.

## **VI. Member Recruitment**

Betha mentioned that we have a very solid base of Midwest chapter members who are VRA members. A list of potential members from non-VRA institutions does exist and a letter could be sent to them to encourage them to become members of both VRA and VRA Midwest. Betha asked if others knew of other recruitment methods or suggestions to add new members. Rebecca mentioned to see who attends the annual meeting who may not be Midwest members and approach them. Phone calls may be one way to reach people who have not responded to our email recruitment. We have no members from Iowa although we know of VRA members in Iowa. A question was posed as to whether a VRA member from a non-active chapter could join another chapter? We could open our fall meeting to those in the community who would like to join us.

## **VII. Kansas City Conference 2007**

Betha mentioned that the VRA annual conference will be held in Kansas City in 2007. Technically Kansas City is part of the Midwest chapter, but it seems unlikely that our chapter will be asked to host the conference as we have hosted a couple recently. Noriko is the only active member of VRA Midwest in Kansas City, and if she is asked to assist in some way we will likely need to assist her. Since 2007 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VRA, which began in Kansas City, it is very likely that Kansas City will be the host city.

## **VIII. Officer elections**

Betha mentioned that her term as chair is ending and that Jane Ferger has agreed, should she get elected, to serve as chapter chair for one year so that the chapter can get back on the schedule of staggered elections. This would then open up the position of secretary/ treasurer. Anyone who is interested in taking on that role should talk with Betha. We will have a nominating committee again. Jane Goldberg and Alma (from AIC) have been serving as the nominating committee and Betha will ask both Jane and Alma if they would like to continue to serve in order to move forward with the election. Jane explained some of the duties of the secretary/treasurer's position. Betha asked for people interested in the position approach her.

## **II. Announcements**

Betha asked if there were any announcements. Rebecca Moss and others thanked Betha for her work as chair of VRA Midwest; Heidi mentioned that it will be good to have a Midwest voice on the VRA national board, which Betha has been elected to. Betha mentioned that next year there will be a "Train the Trainers" program for CCO, and she hopes someone, in addition to Eileen, from the chapter will consider attending the program so that we have a regional representative. At the next annual conference there will be a training session. Betha asked if everyone saw our Raffle donation. Jodie once again did a great job in organizing and displaying all the donations (which were sunglasses this year). Betha asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jodie Walz motioned to adjourn the meeting and Cheryl Vogler seconded the motion. The VRA Midwest meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.