

MINUTES
Eastern Michigan Council
February 14, 2009
Hosted by Novi Oaks Chapter, Novi, Michigan

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Lisa Beedon. Lisa led the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. All attendees introduced themselves followed by the breakfast buffet.

Chapters in attendance: Achates, Cass River,, Cross Road Connection, Greater Oakland, Maia, Novi Oaks, Nu-Lite, Te-Wan-A-Going, Vivon

Program:

Sandy Sidaway showed how to navigate the new ABWA website -- www.abwa.org -- how to update your personal profile, see your group's membership list if you are the President, register for conferences online, or make purchases through the ABWA Store. Sandy also showed the new WIN - Women's Instructional Network which will come online in April, 2009. There is an optional \$15 fee being added to the chapter dues renewal. There was discussion about how this fee is lumped together in the hard copy dues renewal and separated when renewing on-line.

Diane Nixon presented on chapter goal setting. She talked about using the Best Practices Scorecard, identifying those items where the group scores low, determining if the low scored item if achieved would be of highest benefit to the group. Diane also then walked through the steps to prioritize goals using the method to determine low scored, highest value, ranking as short-term vs. longer-term achievement.

The group then did a table top exercise taking the goal of increasing membership and identifying the strategies/tasks as Action Items, Resources needed to achieve this goal, how to Communicate status toward this goal, and Schedule/Deadlines and Budget needed. Multiple tables shared their table's results. The goal of the exercise: share the technique to be taken back to individual groups to assist with mapping out their own chapter goals.

Business Meeting:

12/13/08 Minutes and Financial Report -- Chair Lisa Beedon announced the Minutes from the 12/13/08 meeting were distributed by email. Copies of the Financial Report were distributed at the meeting. Clarification was made regarding the \$52.50 overpayment listed on the Financial Report. Donna Lee notes a few chapters had overpaid their Council dues and the difference was refunded back to the chapters. There are currently 13 chapters of the EMC x \$30/year dues = \$390 projected dues revenue for 2009. The minutes were accepted as published and the Financial Report received for audit.

2009 DVP luncheon - Diane Ehret reported the planning for the 2009 DVP luncheon to be held Saturday 7/12/09 at the Somerset Inn in Troy is well underway to honor Barbara Young our current District V VP. This event is jointly sponsored by the EMC and the Metro Detroit Area Council (MDAC) with the MDAC leading the event this year. Shirley Myrick is Chair (MDAC) and Sandy Sidaway Vice-Chair (EMC).

All EMC chapters strongly encouraged to announce this event at each chapter meeting between now and June to boost participation. There will be an optional Friday night reception 7/11/09 with a dinner following at individual expense. Saturday 7/12/09 will begin with a continental breakfast, a great ABWA forum with lots of learning and networking, vendor shopping, basket raffles, 50/50 drawings, door prizes, and the luncheon honoring Barbara Young.

"Save the Date" cards will be available shortly with lots of publicity at our District V spring conference May 15-16 in Midland, MI. In March or April the Ways & Means Committee (Claudia Cartwright and Diane Nixon) will be contacting your chapter to confirm your contribution of a basket to be raffled on 7/12/09.

Some chapters pay part of the registration fee to this event to encourage attendance, other chapters designate the DVP lunch as their July meeting, while other chapters pay the entire early bird registration fee for their attendees. The registration fee will be finalized on the next conference call. Pass the word and let's break of past attendance figures!

2009 District V Spring Conference update -- Donna Lee reported she had a conference call with Dawn Ballard, General Chair, last week. Dawn is working on the schedule for the conference and talked about help from EMC chapter members. Donna emphasized Nokomis member participation needed to be at 100% before EMC members would volunteer. A sign-up list of needs will be at our 4/18/09 EMC WoY event for 1 1/2 hour spots.

Chair Lisa Beedon encouraged everyone to sign up to help if they can and to register early for the conference on-line and save \$5.00!

EMC Woman of the Year and Top Ten Celebration - Te-Wan-A-Going is hosting our next EMC meeting on 4/18/09 to honor our EMC chapter's Woman of the Year and Top Ten nominees. This event is being held at Walli's restaurant on Center Road in Burton. The Breakfast buffet is \$16/person with reservations due by 4/10/09 to Virginia Page.

EMC chapters should send the name of their Woman of the Year and Top Ten nominee to Lisa Beedon at lbeedon@yahoo.com by 3/6/09.

Chapter Sharing:

Novi Oaks - Chris Struwe announced Novi Oaks' 5th Autumn Brunch with Auction is going to be held on 10/17/09 so "save the date". Flyers will be available soon for early bird registration to save \$5 and PayPal is available this year. Also, Novi Oaks is hosting a Charity Poker event with Greater Oakland chapter tonight at Five Star Lanes.

Cass River Charter - Kim Hamilton announced she is accepting reservations for Winter Warm-Up the first weekend in March today as there are a few rooms left. 56 registered so far and national officers Vicki Marlett, Deb Horrocks, Pam Carvell and Barbara Young will be attending. Past National officers Robin Necci and Diane Nixon will also be there.

Maia - Mary Shindell talked about Women Making Connections and Maia's new coordinating venture. Event is a networking event from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. in downtown Ann Arbor on 4/28/09 (rescheduled subsequently to 5/5/09). This is not a trade show or an expo. \$5 when registering on-line before the event via PayPal or \$10 at the door. 300-400 attendees last year. A special pre-event seminar from 3:30 - 4:00 called "Crack the Networking Code" will be held. Maia is still looking for sponsors and exhibitors. This is a fundraiser for Maia to replace our holiday craft show. Profits go towards our education fund.

Vivon - Cathy Alderman shared the 2/28/09 \$5 coupon book for Community Day with coupons to Yonker's in Port Huron as well as Macy's as a fundraiser for Vivon. There's a \$10 off coupon for any purchase \$10+ plus 20% off other items. See Cathy if interested in purchasing this \$5 coupon book today.

Diane Beedon also announced Vivon is offering a \$1,000 chapter special scholarship for a technical, vocational or community college. She has applications and packets are due to National ABWA 3/31/09.

Greater Oakland Charter - Mary Mills announced Great Oakland is funding one \$2,000 and one \$1,000 chapter special scholarships. They are also looking for SBMEF \$1,500 grant applicants but not advertising this scholarship in hopes of submitting their nominee to an ABWA member or relative. See Mary or JoAnn Huebner for information.

Te-Wan-A-Going - Debbie Freeman announced their spring fundraiser is selling the \$25 gift cards for Walker's Farms Greenhouse.

Lisa Beedon announced she has started a new job and moved to Port Huron. She is working through Americorp for Habitat for Humanity of St. Clair County as the Volunteer Coordinator.

Novi Oaks conducted a door prize drawing.

Lisa Beedon led the membership in the benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Nixon

Diane Nixon
Communications Officer