

Torch Club of Columbus
Board of Directors Meeting Summary
Thursday, November 4, 2021
Location: OSU Faculty Club

Torch Club Board Members 2021-2022

TITLE	NAME	Present (Y) or Absent (N)
President	Nancy Wardwell	Y
President-Elect	Susan Tilgner	Y
Past President (Nominating)	Susan Warrener Smith	Y
Secretary	Thom Seelbach	Y
Assistant Secretary (Fellowship)	Diane Selby	Y
Treasurer	Howard Gauthier	Y
Assistant Treasurer	David Lenz	N
Newsletter Editor	Steve Sterrett	Y
Region V Director	Liz Short	Y
Director-at-Large (Membership)	Dorothy Driskell	Y
Director-at-Large	Paul Niswander	Y
Director-at-Large (Website Editor)	Rai Goerler	Y
Director-at-Large	Christina Atzberger	Y

The meeting was called to order by Nancy Wardwell at 4:30 pm.

The minutes of the October 7, 2021, meeting were distributed. Steve Sterrett moved to approve the minutes. Christina Atzberger seconded, and the motion carried.

Secretary Report

Thom Seelbach reported that the prices for meals for the December event are higher and asked for direction as to what meal selections should be made. If several choices are offered the price would be \$47 per person. Discussion followed and it was decided that it will be left up to Ginny Gauthier, who is our meal planner, to plan the best meal possible for a reasonable price. The price we charge is \$40 per person for a guest in December.

Steve Sterrett moved to charge guests for regular meetings and dinner \$30 with no charge for a guest who is a promising new member. Dorothy Driskell seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Howard Gauthier presented the Treasurer Report showing total revenue to date is \$12,460.00 and total expenses are \$350.00. Checking account balance is \$36,252.59.

He noted that no new member applications have been received and 17 members have not yet paid for this year's dues. In 2020 there were 5 who did not pay dues. Because of the unusual 2020 year with no in-person gatherings, Howard is using figures for the "previous year" reports from 2019 year.

There have been four guests so far this year and all have paid \$25 to attend. He mentioned again that revenues are a problem and costs keep increasing. The payment required by the International Association of Torch Clubs, Inc. is based on the total number of club members at \$50 per member.

Discussion followed regarding the inactive status available for members who for various reasons cannot attend club offerings this year. Their names would remain in the directory, and they would receive a copy of the directory. Dorothy Driskell moved to lower the inactive membership fee from \$75 to \$50 and that inactive member may rejoin at anytime without paying initiation fee again. The motion was seconded by Howard Gauthier. The motion passed.

The board will be involved in personally contacting each of the 17 non-paying members to encourage them to pay before the end of November.

Fellowship Report

Diane Selby reported that the Fellowship Committee has invited Bob Stevenson to be the Member's Moment for the November meeting and Walter Buchsieb will do the introduction. One person requested a ride for this evening and that request has been filled. It is hoped each newsletter will include the note for people to contact her if a ride is needed.

Diane suggested that the Fellowship Committee might assist the board with contacting the non-paying members with a friendly “missing you” note and include a directory for the year encouraging them to join us. Howard will circulate the list of 17 non-paying members.

Membership

Dorothy Driskell reported that there were no new members this evening, but she is following up on some candidates for the future.

Newsletter

Steve Sterrett reported that he is working on the next issue of the Torch Newsletter. Nancy Wardwell thanked Steve for his work on the Torch Lighter and all the research that goes into preparing an issue.

Website

November was Rai Goerler’s inaugural effort to update the website, and all went well. Once the Minutes are approved by the Board, they will be uploaded to the website. The Treasurer’s Report will not be uploaded. He will contact Diane Selby for the PDF version of the approved minutes for posting.

District V and IATC Reports

Liz Short updated the Board on other clubs’ activities in our region. The Lima Club was holding its first meeting tonight. In Toledo, the biggest problem they are having is members still not comfortable coming to an in person meeting due to COVID. They are benefiting from the IATC Speaker’s Bureau. In Youngstown, their first meeting will be November 10th and our club members are welcome to visit. Basically, all clubs, like ours, are working hard to come out of the pandemic.

Old Business

Nancy Wardwell shared that all 65 members of the OSU Glee Club will be attending our December meeting, which is also our Holiday celebration. The piano will be tuned on the day of the event. There was discussion about offering a \$500 honorarium and questions about COVID precautions for the singing group. The Board agreed by consensus to offer an honorarium at the discretion of the President and the Treasurer. Nancy Wardwell will follow-up on COVID precautions.

New Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. At 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Selby, Assistant Secretary