

**Torch Club of Columbus**  
 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
 Thursday August 3, 2023  
 Location: Worthington Library, Hard Road

**Torch Club Board Members 2023-2024**

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>PRESENT (Y) or ABSENT (N)</b>
<b>President</b>	<b>Rai Goerler</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>President-Elect</b>	<b>Don Larson</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Past President (Nominating)</b>	<b>Susan Tilgner</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Thom Seelbach</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Fellowship – Recording Secretary</b>	<b>Diane Selby</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Dave Lenz</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	<b>Steve Sterrett</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Region V Director</b>	<b>Nancy Wardwell</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Director at Large (Membership)</b>	<b>Dorothy Driskell</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Director at Large</b>	<b>Paul Niswander</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Director at Large</b>	<b>Christina Atzberger</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Director at Large</b>	<b>David Hansen</b>	<b>Y</b>

The meeting was called to order by President Rai Goerler at 3:00 pm. Rai brought delicious pizzas and Diane Selby supplied desserts. Rai welcomed Don Larson as the new president-elect and mentioned that David Lenz could not attend this meeting as he is with his wife who recently had surgery. Nancy Wardwell distributed the printed Operations Manual to each board member and was thanked for all her work on this document. Rai shared the revised order of the agenda to have discussion items first.

**Dick Hill Memorial**

Everyone recalled fond memories of all the many ways Dick Hill encouraged and enjoyed the members of Torch Club. Nancy Wardwell said, “he was head and shoulders above us!” Thoughts were shared on how we might pay tribute to his life. A memorial space could be added to the Directory, he could be a featured Member’s Moment in October, Steve will do a tribute in the fall newsletter, Rai will reach out to Lee Hill for her thoughts on an appropriate way to show our appreciation. It was suggested that Lee could be offered honorary membership or at least be our guest for the evening of the tribute. The Fellowship Committee offered suggestions as well. The original concern that we might be setting a precedent by doing something special was dispelled as all concerned felt we should do something.

### Secretary's Report

Thom Seelbach reported that he is working on the new directory and that it is time to email the dues notice to members. He would like to have all the information to include in the new directory booklet by the first week of September.

### Treasurer's Report

David Lenz presented the Treasurer's report via email to the Board. The current balance as of August 2, 2023, is \$7,952.59. Expected expenses next month are \$75 to OSU Faculty Club. Last year at this time the balance on hand was \$13,600. Costs from the Faculty Club for meals for next year have not yet been established. The dues to IATC have increased \$15 per person to \$65 each.

### Dues for next year

Rai opened the discussion by referring to the Treasurer's report. What can we do to meet budget needs – raise dues, raise guest fees, reduce costs?

Many thoughts were shared as none of us wanted to increase dues, however, it is necessary. Dues have been the same since 2011 and our membership decreased quite a bit from COVID pandemic as well as normal attrition. Last year expenses were \$23,250 and income from 58 members was \$17,400, meaning approximately \$5,600 was applied from reserve funds to meet our obligations. The treasurer suggested dues increase by at least \$50 per person based on also using funds from our reserves. Nancy suggested that whatever increase is decided upon for local dues, an additional \$15 for IATC increase be added.

\$50 increase = dues of \$350 and is a 17% increase from last year

\$100 increase = dues of \$400 and is a 33% increase from last year

\$75 increase = dues of \$375 and is a 25% increase from last year

\$60 increase = dues of \$360 and is a 20% increase from last year

After much discussion Susan Tilgner moved and Dorothy Driskell seconded a motion to charge dues of \$360 per person, \$310 for household, and \$35 guest fee (cost of the dinner) for 2023-2024 to be paid by November 2. After November 2 dues will be \$375 per member. Motion passed unanimously.

### Minutes of May 4 Board Meeting

Steve Sterrett moved, and Dorothy Driskell seconded to approve the minutes from the board meeting of May 4, 2023. Motion carried.

### Nominating Committee Report

Susan Tilgner presented the full slate of board members for 2023-2024.

President – Rai Goerler

President-Elect – Don Larson

Past President – Susan Tilgner

Secretary – Thom Seelbach

Assistant Secretary – Diane Selby

Treasurer – David Lenz

Fellowship – Diane Selby  
Membership – Dorothy Driskell  
Nominating – Susan Tilgner  
Newsletter – Steve Sterrett  
Website – Rai Goerler  
IATC Region 5 – Nancy Wardwell  
Directors-at-large: Chris Atzberger, David Hansen, (2022-2024)  
Dorothy Driskell, Paul Niswander (2023-2025)

Susan moved and Steve Sterrett seconded a motion to accept the recommendation for the full slate for 2023-2024. Motion passed unanimously. The listing will be in the newsletter. At the October 5th meeting the membership will vote to elect the President-Elect and two Directors-at-Large (other board members are appointed).

#### Initiatives for next year

Steve suggested that we might use Survey Monkey to gather ideas from the membership. Rai mentioned holding a winter meeting via zoom which would save in costs and make it possible to have a program from a speaker who might be anywhere in the country – perhaps even the winner of the IATC paper of the year award. It was noted that some members are hesitant to do a paper, and Don Larson offered that the member could suggest a non-member who would make an excellent presentation on a timely topic and be a guest program. Everyone expressed a desire to find ways to cut costs without sacrificing the quality of our club, and to encourage additional members.

#### Fellowship Report

Diane Selby reported that cards of sympathy had been sent to the families of Aaron Miller and Dick Hill. The Member's Moments honorees for the next season have all been established and guidelines for the brief presentations sent to them. The fellowship committee for next year is composed of Joan Leitzel, Jeff Caswell, Joe Blundo, Connie Oulanoff, and Nancy Wardwell.

#### Membership

Dorothy Driskell indicated that she already has invited 3 guests for the October meeting and is expecting a couple of new member applications for this fall. IATC has issued a very fine resource - a Tool Kit for New Members - on recruiting for membership which all board members have received and is available on their website to encourage all members to invite more people to share in the membership of Torch Club.

#### Newsletter

Steve Sterrett reported there will be an early September newsletter after Labor Day to publish the program for the year, feature a tribute to the life of Dick Hill, dues reminder, and letter from the President. There will also be another newsletter the end of September with more information about the speaker and October program. Steve very humbly mentioned that his recent paper presented to our club last May has been accepted for publication in the Torch Magazine. He is also going to be a speaker in early 2024 for another group using this paper.

### Website

Rai reported only 13 hits on the website.

### District V and IATC Report

Nancy Wardwell reported that she has been in continuing contact with the Lima Club in District V. She told us of a new software program that IATC has instituted that is excellent to work with and can be utilized by member clubs. The dues increase was reported. There is a push for each club to increase membership by 10%. The Torch Magazine continues to be excellent and one of the valued benefits of membership in IATC. Nancy mentioned that it is likely the 2026 Conference of IATC will be hosted by Columbus as that will be our centennial year.

### Next Board Meeting

The next meeting will be on October 5, 2023, at 4:30 pm at the Faculty Club.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Diane Selby, Recording Secretary