

# VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY GUILD, INC.

## *Minutes*

Annual Meeting  
September 19, 2009

Boerner Botanical Gardens, Hales Corners, WI

### **Saturday, September 19, 2009**

Convened 11:45 a.m. Boerner Botanical Garden Room

Number in Attendance: 37

- **Welcome and Opening Prayer (Jackie Jungemann)**
- **Lunch**
- **Report of the Chair (Linda Deal)**
  - Statistics were provided to show the number of Guild members participating in Guild activities at the local and national levels.
  - All Guild members were asked to help the national office track Guild volunteer participation and money raised by filling out a Member Originated Activity (MOA) form for each activity or fundraiser.
  - Membership for 2008-2009 was 648, including 44 new members.
  - Membership needs continued attention: 648 members represents the first decline in membership since the Guild reorganized.
  - The Board asks people to consider sharing their gifts in a number of ways:
    - Participate in the new Life Skills workshops being offered to students.
    - Participate in the review of Guild Campus Gifts
    - Host upcoming Web conferences (the next one is November 1<sup>st</sup>).
    - The Career Center wants to tap into Guild member skills, for example, teaching interviewing skills to students.
    - Serve on a national committee.
    - Organize a local event.
    - Invite someone to be a member of the Guild.
  - Your ownership and participation in the Guild helps to enhance the student experience!
- **Report of the Tellers Committee (Carolyn Hanes)**
  - The 2009 Tellers Committee met September 13, 2009, in Rockville MD, and was chaired by Susan Zimmerman.
  - \$17,912 was allocated to Guild Campus Gifts grants. The recipients (and the dollar amount allocated include:
    - Celebrate! Sound Equipment (\$912)
    - Nicaragua Mission Work (\$1,500)
    - Refurbish Chapel Handbells (\$2,000)
    - Wireless Access in Miller Hall (\$3,500)
    - Tanzania Water Project (\$5,000)
    - Welcome Desk-Kretzmann Hall (\$5,000)
  - Newly elected to the Board of Directors are:
    - Linda Ertel
    - Ethel Kallsen
    - Kathleen Nowak
- **Report of the Bylaws Committee (Keith Paukner)**
  - The Bylaws Committee, chaired by Lorraine Dorough, moved to remove Article XI, Section 2. (The Audit Committee), and to remove Article X, Section 4.c. (Refers to the Audit Committee under Treasurer's Duties).
    - Rationale: The financial records of the Guild are now part of the university's finances, and the Guild's finances are audited a part of the University's audit.
    - No discussion.
    - The amendment passed unanimously.
- **State of the Guild (Julie Thomas, director)**
  - Thanks to all for attending the Annual Meeting.
  - Changes at the university over the past year were described.
    - The Guild's transformation over the last 5 years has allowed it to be more flexible in response to the university's changes.
    - One important change is the ability to use the internet to virtually have the greatest impact. For example, the Guild is now on Facebook and encourages interactions between students, Guild members, and alumni.
    - The Guild has focused on student outreach:

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- Life Skills Workshops – Goal: Teach students the soft skills that will help them succeed at VU and post-graduation.
  - “Keeping the Peace” a Lifeskills workshop on conflict resolution was attended by 65 freshmen. It also was an opportunity to tell the students about the Guild.
  - Additional workshops are planned in partnership with other university departments.
- “Guild Week” will be held in November in the Harre Union. There will be activities to attract students, and to tell them about Guild Campus Gifts and other student-centered activities of the Guild.
- All members were encouraged to actively seek a niche in the Guild and to consider sharing their skills and life experiences with the students.
- **Question and Answer Session**
  - Index cards were placed at each table for attendees to write their questions.
  - Julie, Linda, and one representative of each Board class answered questions.
  - Comment: Julie just celebrated 9 years as Director of the Guild.
  - **Q:** In the future, will the annual meeting be held outside of Valparaiso University?  
**A:** This is the first time we offered a regional event to our members. Maybe – the Board will talk about it and look at the feedback we get from today’s gathering.
  - **Q:** How do we connect 35-45 year olds to the Guild?  
**A:** Working and family life makes this a challenging group to attract. We are looking at ways to specifically target this group.
  - **Q:** Do we still invite new students’ parents to join the Guild and how do we do this?  
**A:** Yes, a mailing will be mailed to parents of new and returning students in the next few weeks with information about the Guild and inviting membership and participation.
  - **Q:** Have we considered another cookbook fundraiser?  
**A:** The Board has discussed this and may be time to do another cookbook. If you’re interested in serving, please let us know.
  - **Q:** How many mailings, if any, are being sent to graduates to encourage them to join?  
**A:** This year we sent a letter to students 3-5 years after graduation. This letter was written by Kristy Paukner. The Guild’s Facebook presence is an easier and more effective way to maintain contact with and have a presence with new graduates who are in transition.
  - **Q:** Do you ever send a letter to mothers of freshmen? (This question was from a member who had talked to a person who had received no information from the Guild).  
**A:** The first contact with parents and students is at FOCUS, the new student orientation held in June. In August, they received a letter about the care packages. A letter will be mailed soon to parents of new students with information about the Guild and asking them to join.
  - **Q:** Do you have plans for another Christian Women’s Conference?  
**A:** Yes, plans for the 2011 Christian Women’s Conference are in progress.
  - **Q:** Is there a way to explore getting the membership together as part of a national Guild conference?  
**A:** The Board has talked about the possibility of holding a national conference around the Guild’s upcoming 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
  - Comment from Julie: The Guild sends a Welcome to Campus e-mail to all students. E-mail is an effective means of communication with the students.
  - General Comment: Guild members are encouraged to contact the national office or members of the Board of Director with questions or comments. Board of Directors and National Guild Office contact information is listed on the back of the program.
- **Closing prayer** (Jan Duesenberg)
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.