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P.O. Box 50994 | Nashville, TN 37205

Minutes of the Meeting

November 15, 2023

Coco's Italian Market & Restaurant - Patio, Nashville

Welcome and Call to Order:

6:00 p.m. - Following social hour, **Communications Chair Patricia Smith** prefaced the meeting with announcements of three upcoming Advent experiences:

- Advent Mission with Katie McGrady from the Catholic Channel, at St. Stephen's, on December 3, 4, and 5. The mission is entitled "Hope, Healing and Happiness in Advent."
- Eucharistic Lecture at Aquinas College, on December 14. The talk is termed "The Real Presence: Source of Joy."
- Reflection at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, on December 2, hosted by NCBWL member Jennie Guinn with Catholic Moms in the Middle. The event is "A Morning of Reflection: The Gifts of Advent." It is held to help women embrace Advent, recognizing that "God is a giver of good gifts, but it is easy to overlook the Advent treasures buried beneath the hustle and bustle of the busy season." To register, one can go to [Catholic Moms in the Middle \(jennieguinnlifecoach.com\)](https://www.catholicmomsinthemiddle.com).

President Claudia Weber welcomed the large attendee group, including five past presidents, to the meeting. She highlighted:

- Pearls of Wisdom (PoW) fundraising gala, on October 6 – The fabulous event resulted in current plans to give \$12,000 scholarship funding for each of the three target Catholic high schools. More coverage to follow this evening.
- PoW "Second Chance" Silent Auction, currently underway – The online auction has new and continued items for bid including match of current Predators' ticket/lounge/visit package, and Alivio Health medspa items.
- ACE (Advancement of Catholic Education) annual dinner, on November 9 – Claudia attended and found the experience informative.

During 'pizza night' dinner, Claudia and Patricia turned over the program to guest speakers from **Springboard Landings, Elizabeth Woodliff and Pat Cooper**.

Attendance Update:

32 Members

1 Religious

12 Guests (including 2 speakers)

4 Absent Registrants

45 Total Attendees

Program:

6:15 p.m. – Operations Director Elizabeth Woodliff told attendees that Springboard Landing is focused on building community and a center with affordable housing for adults with mild development disabilities. The organization aims to provide housing where these individuals can be comfortable and safe, can be themselves, and can thrive with dignity. Elizabeth further explained that mildly developmentally disabled adults can take care of themselves and work, but they typically lack community and resources. Elizabeth invited Pat Cooper, principal founder of the 501 (c)3 organization nearly fifteen years ago, to relay the historical story behind Springboard Landing's formation.

Pat shared her journey, marked by the experience of her now-49-year-old daughter Susan's contracting viral encephalitis at age 4, kept alive in part through fervent prayer chain, and pulling through yet left with brain damage and some

seizures. Through much struggle and surrounding support, Susan was able to attend St. Henry, graduate from St. Bernard in eighth grade, graduate from Father Ryan in 1993, and work 20 years at a salon where she became beloved. In 1993, upon discovering the Springboard Network elsewhere while attempting to find community and friends fitting for Susan, Pat started Springboard Network locally in Nashville. Susan flourished with the acceptance and love from others like her. Pat and other parents began to think about the need for a future place for their mildly developmentally disabled children as children grow up and parents age. After a prayerful extensive search, Pat seized the opportunity to create the solution, forming the Springboard Landings nonprofit, in 2010. Pat emphasized how grateful she is for a wonderful Board with leadership that includes one of her sons as President and NCBWL member Lynn Chaffin's husband as Treasurer. They are making significant progress toward their housing vision.

Elizabeth closed out the presentation by updating us on both the organization's build plans and the support channels they appreciate. Earlier this year, Springboard Landing purchased property in Davidson County where they plan to build 24 unit housing. They are pursuing grant funding and donations to reach their funding goal. Elizabeth invited NCBWL members to: help Springboard Landing connect with anyone interested in their plans, donate through www.springboardlandings.org website/QR code or check, and attend their fundraising concert on Saturday January 13 at noon, at Third and Lindsley, (818 Third Ave, Nashville). The show will feature 90's country music led by George Ducas, Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter.

Reflection

Following Claudia's comments on the 'party with your boots on' spirit of Springboard Landing's January fundraiser and on NCBWL's December 20 potluck Christmas party at the Catholic Pastoral Center, **Father John Sims-Baker** provided a November reflection about Heaven and its celebration state. Bodies will be resurrected and joined to souls. Persons in Heaven will experience unimaginable joy from being in the direct presence of God and His Love. The deepest longing of one's heart will be fulfilled upon joining the Wedding Feast of the Lamb.

NCBWL Business Meeting

6:45 p.m. – **Recent Business**

Treasurer Report – Karoline Mahoney, Treasurer, presented October 2023 report, highlighting:

Beginning balance Oct 1 2023	\$54,496.12
Total October Revenue	\$17,239.49
Net Operating Revenue	\$71,735.61
Total October Expenses	<u>\$ 2,104.87</u>
Net Operating Income	\$69,630.74
Total in Reserve	\$2,682.73
Total Operating Income	\$66,948.01

Karoline advised of subsequent changes in operating income given this week's cashing of NCBWL's checks for Richland Country Club (\$20,000) and Coco's (\$1,100) September dinner. As of November 15, Total Operating Income is: **\$45,572.00**. The current plan is to give \$12,000 to each of the three POW beneficiary high schools and potentially \$3,000 (minimum \$2,000) to St. Michael's scholarship fund.

Karoline also shared blessed personal news that she and her husband are expecting a baby, their first, in May.

Pearls of Wisdom (PoW) Event Preliminary Report – Claudia highlighted the above current plans for scholarship funds distribution, which will be finalized as all expenses are confirmed. She applauded the enormous work and giving that PoW event co-chairs Lauren Barca and Courtney Conklin put forth, leading the charge around a spectacular 2023 gala.

Membership – Ellen Wade announced that two new members joined in November, bringing total NCBWL membership to 125. In 2023 to date, 33 members have joined. Sadly, one longstanding member, Mary Estelle Calhoun, recently passed; Mary previously had been active at St. Cecilia.

Communications – Patricia Smith acknowledged Cora Newcomb's excellent coverage of the PoW on the NCBWL website, and Lisa Link's great work related to the silent auction. Patricia encouraged members to send her any updates that are suitable for League communications channels.

Programs - Mary Rolando shared that she is happy to host Board members at her house for the January 2024 Board meeting.

Spiritual Life Chair Jennie Guinn was absent, and she will be involved in January meeting plans. Claudia advised that plans are underway to schedule February, March, and April 2024 monthly meetings at each of the three high schools receiving scholarships. Members will be able to meet scholarship recipients and enjoy lunch or dinner. Claudia also advised that an upcoming member survey will include a query on venues of interest for future monthly gatherings.

Hospitality – Tricia Casa Santa reported that for the current 2023-2024 fiscal year, a total of 110 cards have been sent. Occasions were: 73 Birthday, 22 Guest Acknowledgement, 6 Sympathy, 3 Thank You, 2 Religious Anniversary, 2 One-Year Anniversary, 1 Baby, and 1 Thinking of You.

Social Action – Carol Ann Fernandez noted that generally 2024 monthly charitable donations/activities will continue to be linked to respective guest speaker programs, similar to currently-spotlighted Springboard Landing who is grateful for NCBWL members' monetary donations.

Social Media Chair Kelly Anne Colopietro was absent. Her duo's musical performance during the PoW gala was heralded.

Pearls of Wisdom Co-Chairs Lauren Barca and Courtney Conklin expressed their enthusiastic thanks to all the volunteers, donors, and supporters who contributed to the event's success.

7:10 **New Business**

Additional President Updates - Claudia shared with the group:

- Claudia's experience at the November 9 ACE dinner enabled her to learn a lot from other attendees about Catholic school scholarships.
- NCBWL was represented at the Eucharistic Revival Conference, on Saturday November 11, as Claudia set up and managed NCBWL's table there.
- Claudia and others will coordinate with Sisters of Mercy and Dominican Sisters to schedule Christmas season visits and gift-giving at the Sisters' residences. Members should look for upcoming communications including website postings that clarify timing and desired donations/gifts. Last year, the Dominicans were wishing for a fish tank and were most appreciative of NCBWL's provision. The Sisters of Mercy tend to favor gift cards and crafts.
- For auction prize event "Pizza and Prayers with Dominican Sisters," Coco's is donating the pizza.

The Ask – Claudia prompted any interested attendees to share personal/business updates and requests.

- Darcy Bomer and Devri Penrod of Cute and Comfy Shoes and Apparel announced their ask: Please help them in their search to hire two-three full-time (3-5 days/week) employees. They are moving to a new Green Hills location, next to Trader Joe's. Also, Darcy is appearing live on 99.7 (WWTN-FM) Cumulus Radio on Monday, November 20, while at the Nashville Rescue Mission. Darcy marveled that one of the brands they sell, Naot, based in Israel, is donating 150 pairs of shoes to the Nashville Rescue Mission.
- Tusca Alexis introduced herself as an attorney for 34 years who is running for Fourth Circuit Court Judge for Davidson County, in the March 5, 2024 election.
- Sandra MacSweeney, President-Elect, advised that her Alivio Health business' plans to open their new office at target space in Oak Hill were set back by unexpected flooding within the new building. They are temporarily in nearby space (at 4825 Trousdale Drive).
- Trish Cronin announced it was member Mimi Speciale's birthday. With Claudia's immediate encouragement, attendees sang 'Happy Birthday,' and passed around a platter of mini cannoli.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Father John Sims-Baker led the group in Our Father and Hail Mary prayers, and he extended blessings during this Thanksgiving time.

Adjournment:

7:28 p.m. – The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Cronin
Secretary