

Suffolk West Federation of WI
AUTUMN COUNCIL MEETING
at Culford School,
Wednesday 26th October 2016 at 7.00pm

Minutes

Present: Federation Chairman – Elizabeth Lansman, Members of the Board of Trustees, Members of Sub-Committees, Delegates and members from 44 WIs, Staff and invited guest Caroline Holmes

Apologies: Brenda Dyer, Doreen Croxton, Pam Blackwell, Gwen Smith, Ruth Crabtree, Gillian Hodge, Ann Good, Carla Auger, Cambridgeshire Federation

The safety announcements were made

The meeting opened with Jerusalem

Welcome: The Chairman, Elizabeth Lansman welcomed Members and Delegates from Suffolk West Federation, Caroline Holmes our guest speaker, representatives from neighbouring Federations, past Chairmen and Treasurers.

Minutes of the Federation Annual Meeting held on 28th April 2016: The Chairman proposed that the Minutes of this meeting be accepted as read as there were no corrections. Seconder for the proposal was from Barrow WI and this was agreed by the delegates. There were no matters arising.

Adoption of Standing Orders of Council: Elizabeth Lansman, Chairman asked a delegate to propose the adoption of the standing orders this was done by Shimpling and Alpheton WI, seconded by Great Ashfield and Badwell Ash WI and agreed by the delegates.

Introduction of the Board of Trustees and Committee Chairs by Jill Gooch (vice chair, WI News editor and member of Music & Drama): Jill introduced the Board of Trustees to the meeting, including Elizabeth Lansman whom she thanked for all her hard work over her term of office. Jill also introduced Sue Archer (Treasurer), Linda Gridley, Yvonne King (Catering Officer), Joyce Haiselden, Margaret Brackenbury (chairman of Leisure sub-committee), and Rachel Thomas. Jill explained that two members, Janet Brown (chairman of Music and Drama sub-committee) and Brenda Last had been co-opted to the Board of Trustees until the current Board cycle ends next March. She also introduced Julie Higgins who sits on the Board due to her position as Chairman of the Members Advisory Committee. Jill explained that any Member can express interest in joining the Board of trustees, whether they have held a position at their WI or not, and encouraged Members to think about becoming a Trustee. Jill also mentioned the two new office staff and thanked Members for their patience whilst the staff settled in.

Treasurer's Report by Sue Archer: Sue explained that the Federation budgetary forecast was showing an anticipated deficit. However this did not take into account interest and dividends from investments and also income from future events. Sue explained that the Federation received income via subs and events, and that to maintain the Federation without using capital reserves (which were invested), the events needed to be successful, and generate sufficient income for the Federation. Sue said that Federation events had sometimes been poorly attended.

Sue reported that investments were stable, even following the Brexit announcement. Sue also stressed the need for accurate MCS information to be inputted by MCS representatives, as this reflected in Memberships showing up on records for National federation of WI purposes.

Report on Upcoming Events: by Rachel Thomas, trustee and member of Sports Committee
Rachel asked Members how they choose which events to attend or support. She said that there were a wide range of events, from the more social to those that made women think. She said the events needed to appeal to Members for them to book up, and Rachel asked Members to remember the ethos of the WI and look towards improving themselves, and being inspired by what was on offer.

Federation Chair's address by Elizabeth Lansman, Chairman:
Please see attached

Presentation of certificate by Elizabeth to Maggie Glavin who is now a fully trained WI Adviser

Presentation of the Margaret Hitchcock Cup by Andrea Davies: Andrea who had judged this competition with Sally Kingman said it had been difficult to choose a winner as all entries had been high quality. The judges had looked at content, for historical accuracy, originality of ideas, and also how well each entry had reflected the brief given. The Cup was awarded to Thurlow WI, whose entry had been written by Dawn Abbey, Helen Bennett and Molly Hawkins. Certificates of participation were given to Horringer and Ickworth WI, Moreton Hall WI, Stanton WI and Walsham le Willows WI.

Federation Photographic Competition 2016 Winner announced by Rachel Thomas: The winner was Liz Cory of Woolpit WI. Participants were invited to submit a photograph with the theme "what the WI means to me". Attendees on the evening voted with a coin and the 'votes' totaled £27.25. The money was donated to the A.C.W.W.

Presentation of Bowls Cup by Elizabeth Lansman to Philippa Rixon and Irene Pibworth of Rickingham WI and June Bunn of Barrow and District WI

Guest speaker Caroline Holmes *Sifting the Humour from the Humus*

Caroline amused Members with her anecdotes on well-known gardens through history along with gardens she has designed or helped to design. Caroline also mentioned several of her books. She made some interesting references to Suffolk and its links to famous European gardens. Caroline showed many interesting slides to accompany her talk.

Julie Higgins thanked Caroline Holmes on behalf of the Board

300 CLUB DRAW by Sue Archer and Michelle Harris: The winning ticket was number 33 and this was won by Shirley Jennings of Norton WI who won £50

The raffle was drawn.

THANKS – The chairman thanked the volunteers: Troston and Great Barton WIs helped with tea and coffee. Helen Cooper of Drinkstone WI was on the Denman Stand with Liz Kimnell. Bury WI manned the raffle table. Chevington WI provided 6 Stewards for the event.

Elizabeth thanked the staff of Culford School for their help in arranging this event and for their help on the evening.

CLOSE: The Chairman closed the meeting and the National Anthem was sung