Junaluskans General Meeting

VIA ZOOM

March 3, 2021

The March Junaluskans General Meeting was called to order by Nancy Hood.

Hilda Ryan gave the Caring and Sharing Report. She sent cards to the following: Mildred McAfee, on the death of her husband, Mike; Wilson Mixon, on the death of his wife, Barbara; Jackie Bolin, on the death of her husband, Lessie; and to Don Rankin during his illness. Also mentioned were Hattie Polk, recovering at Smoky Mountain Rehab, and Marie Metcalf, who had eye surgery.

Susan Folds opened the meeting with prayer.

Due to technical difficulties, Bill Lowry was unable to give the Junaluska Moment.

The Treasurer’s Report was given by Steve Berwager. Membership dues received to date in 2021 are $10,205.00. This exceeds the amount received in 2020.

Membership Secretary, Margaret Amick, thanked all who have sent in membership information. As of March 1, 483 people have paid their dues. This compares to 511 members in 2020. She attributes this to sending membership letters/forms through the water bill. Also, memberships have come in through the Stith email and because of the information in the Lake News and Views. Steve Crites is continuing to send out 2021 directories to paying members who request them.

Jim Pearson said that Clean Up Day was successful. 241 total volunteers participated. Due to the online sign ups, he has a database of volunteers he can call on. A lot of volunteers came from outside of the Junaluska community. 187 bags of trash were collected. He is hoping to go to two days next year.

Jim also discussed the swans. It is mating season and there seems to be a lot of activity.

As the Lake is filled, new booms will be going into place. The booms collect trash before it goes into the lake.

Grace Gattis reported on the upcoming Driftwood Art in Place. Using driftwood from the lake, you are asked to create an art project. The project must be 90% driftwood. Everyone is invited to participate. The art will be displayed the first and second weeks of April.

Boyd Holliday of Creation Care was unable to be present. He asked that everyone read his article in the News and Views.

Nancy Hood expressed appreciation to Diana Foederer for another great issue of the Lake News and Views.

The Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, June 12. Judy LaFountaine asked that we keep this date on our calendars. Thursday, June 10, tents and tables will be set up and items in storage will be picked up. Friday, June 11, all items out will be put out and priced.

Nancy Hood called on Ken Howle, Executive Director of Lake Junaluska, to give his report.

Ken said the grounds are starting to show signs of Spring. He suggested that we begin now going through the Corneille Bryan Native Garden. He says go often to see how it changes and what new is blooming.

Four oak trees are being taken down near Lambuth. They were checked by arborists to determine if they were healthy and they were not. The goal is to develop an Urban Forest plan of taking down dead and sick plants/trees and planting new items to enhance the grounds in the future. Three river birch trees have been delivered and will be soon planted at the York Dining Commons.

The trustees and administration of Lake Junaluska were made aware of the World Methodist Council plans to sell the World Methodist Council Museum and the Reynolds Building, many know as the Epworth House. Junaluska has a right of first refusal to purchase the museum and due to a gift from the Mike Warren family, Junaluska will purchase the property. There is a 30 day right of refusal on the Reynolds House. The trustees will be discussing this at their meeting this weekend. Ken expressed appreciation to Jack Ewing who has led a work group on this. Contact Ken Howle if you have further questions.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation will be replacing bridges on the Great Smoky Mountain Expressway, highways 23 and 74. Public meetings concerning this project will be held and all are encouraged to participate. Dates for the public meetings have not yet been announced.

Due to rainy weather, the lake is filling up quicker than expected. There will probably be a drawdown next year. They are hoping to lower the lake 4 to 5 feet now to allow work on a training beach next to the beach area where paddle boards and kayaks are launched. Also, work will continue on the dam during this drawdown.

Jackie Wolfe contacted Ken about the Lake providing a location for COVID vaccinations. During the month of March, the parking lot at the Lambuth will be used for this.

Ken expressed appreciation to community members who are serving on the Board of Trustees.

Mike Huber, General Manager, said he was notified by Hotels.com that the Terrace had received a Superb, rating, a score of 9 out of 10, for 2021.

Carpet was replaced in 14 rooms at the Lambuth.

Mike introduced the following new staff: Angela Beattie, Director of Sales; Cory Nuckolls, Director of Guest Services; and Jeff Holloway, Director of Food Services.

28 groups are confirmed through March and April. Wedding venue requests are up for the year.

The Fitness Center is going to a touchless and staffless set up. You will be able to sign up online to use the center. When all the changes are made, information will be sent out through the Stith email.

The Easter Sunrise Service will be live and online on April 4. The Reverend Gina Campbell will be the preacher and there will be a brass quintet. Easter Breakfast will be served at the Lakeside Bistro.

Director of Development, Rebecca Mathis said that the Discover Magazine has been distributed in the community. You can also see it online. Events have been updated on the calendar you can find at lakejunaluska.com/calendar. If you are interested in finding seasonal information, go to lakejunaluska.com/spring or/summer, etc. You can look up information about the Lakeside Bistro at lakejunaluska.com/bistro.

Charitable giving, both financial and number of donors, is up from 2020.

Bruce Metcalf has sold calendars with pictures of the Lake Junaluska eagles for donations. These are at the library in the Harrell Center. At this time, only two were left.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted.

Evelyn M. Correll

Recording Secretary.