

**Midwest Regional Button Association
GENERAL MEETING
October 19, 2019
Bloomington, IL**

Meeting called to order at 8:51 AM by President Barbara Weeks.

Minutes of the last meeting were published on line. No corrections were offered, and the minutes will stand as published.

Treasurer's report, Lisa Schulz:

Lisa summarized MRBA's pre-show financial status. Income is related almost entirely to the show. Most expenses are also show-related, with several small line-items related to the National Button Society (MRBA's NBS membership and the MRBA award sponsorship). A detailed itemization of income and expenses is available upon request.

\$5,644.87 in checking
\$8,951.84 in savings
\$70.10 PayPal balance
\$14,666.81 TOTAL

Lisa also reported that the 2019 auction, our main fund-raiser held the evening before the general meeting, brought in \$5,597 plus an additional \$100 in cash donations, for a total of \$5,697.

Competition summary, Ann Olson:

Ann thanked the big team of people who helped judge 144 competition trays. The judging process finished at 1:15 PM Friday. Ann then announced competition winners and distributed prize money.

Old business:

- Barbara announced that MRBA submitted an award for the 2020 National Button Society show: "Div. IX, 25 any size, 17-0 thru 20-24, Specialized to one-word nouns that begin with the letter 'M' in honor of the Midwest. No limit on realistics."
- MRBA will not be held in 2020 because National will be in Springfield, IL, in August 2020. However, the MRBA awards list for the 2021 MRBA show will be available on the MRBA website before the 2020 National begins so that members can shop for awards in Springfield.
- Competitors are reminded to check with Ann Olson for entrant information for the 2021 show, and, as showtime draws closer, to give Ann an idea of how many trays a person intends to enter. Because of time and staffing limitations, competition entry will be limited to people who register for the show.

New business:

- MRBA Show Coordinator Russa Milburn thanked the dealers who support the show and announced the show theme for 2021: "Rivers and Roads." The 2021 show will be held at the Radisson in Normal, IL. Free shuttle service will be available between the airport and the hotel. The MRBA block at the Radisson is considerably larger than our block at the Parke Regency, and all attendees should be able to secure rooms at the Radisson, but it would still be wise for attendees to book their rooms early. The MRBA room rate at the Radisson is \$96 and hotel registration is now open.

- Russa reminded the membership that the 2020 National will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. Again, people are urged to book rooms early, and to contact Russa should they have any unexpected difficulties making reservations. Historical tours are planned and there are many other locations for attendees to explore on their own.
- Barbara announced that the National Button Society has asked MRBA to host the 2022 National Button Society Show in Madison (Middleton), WI. The MRBA board voted unanimously to accept this challenge. Barb asked the membership to write suggestions for show themes on the feedback forms found on the breakfast tables before leaving this morning's meeting. The final show theme will help determine the direction of show favor buttons, educational and other activities, table decorations, etc.
- Barb outlined elements of this year's show that were derived from last year's feedback forms: the hotel room block size, the AV set-up for the outdoor hot-glass demonstration, advanced sign-up and additional space for the Saturday hands-on workshop, the four hands-on table-top demos in the showroom, more time and more space for judging, etc. A suggestion was made in 2018 to have longer showroom hours; because the 2019 show card had already been printed, that suggestion is being implemented for the 2021 show, as noted on the 2021 show cards at each table.
- MRBA board members are nominated by their own states, and joining the MRBA board this year for three-year terms are Jamie Young of Illinois, Martha Towne of Colorado, and Ann Olson of Iowa. They succeed, respectively, Russa Milburn, who will remain on the board as show coordinator, and Lewis Lombardi and Karen Leibold, who are welcome to continue on the board in non-voting advisory roles for another year because they were members of MRBA's original steering committee.
- No officer changes are scheduled for this year, but the terms of office of the secretary and treasurer end in 2020. Because MRBA will have no show next year and therefore no general meeting of the membership, the board is asking for the membership's permission to extend the secretary's and treasurer's terms of officers for an additional year. Ann Olson moved and Deborah Hanson seconded that the two officers' terms be extended into 2021; the motion carried.
- Barbara announced that additional favor buttons are available for \$20 each at the registration table, and that tray checkout will occur shortly after the showroom closes at 1 PM.

The membership raised no additional new business items, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.