

Minutes May 19 2011 The Hideaway Restaurant

President Bob Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:10pm & asked Tim Griswold to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tim announced that co-Treasurer Pam Stevens is traveling in Europe. No new Treasurer Report is available. He asked for volunteers to Adopt a Highway on Saturday, May 21

John Stratton asked for a motion to adopt amendments to the Chamber Bylaws, recommended by the Board of Directors and presented at the April 2011 meeting:

- 1) add an Historian position (3 year) as an advisory/non-voting position
- 2) amend the term of the immediate past president to 2 years.

Motion was made by Kurt Zemba, seconded by Cliff Johnson and passed unanimously.

Our full color Member Directory is at the printer & we will see copies soon.

The Scholarship Committee met with high school applicant Grace Guo at the high school this past week. John spoke highly of her application and credentials. He is waiting for final word from the College about 1st year students and high school summer students from Lyme/Old Lyme. Current scholarship awardee Van Franklin will be continuing at the college. Rick Lacey & Caitlyn Concascia will graduate this year.

Sheila Wertheimer reported that High Hopes and others have expressed interest in hosting Business After Hours events for the Chamber.

She encouraged all members to complete and return the member survey recently sent out.

Sheila introduced new member Frank Pappalardo of Innovative Environmental Services and Red Satin Band. Frank is a seasonal resident in Old Lyme and the chair of Old Lyme's new Sound View Commission.

Cathy Frank announced that Susan von Reichenbach, Old Lyme resident & opera singer who performed for the Chamber in 2010, will be performing at The Kate on Memorial Day weekend.

She echoed Sheila's request for all members to complete & return the survey so that plans made can represent the desires of many members, not just a few.

Break for Dinner

Sheila introduced guest Preston Whiteway, Executive Director of the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center, who brought the 2010 Tony Award with him! The O'Neill was founded in 1964 and holds a special place in the history of American and world theatre.

Countless renowned playwrights, actors & plays can credit the O'Neill: Edward Albee, August Wilson, Wendy Wasserstein; Jennifer Garner, Michael Douglas, John Krasinski; Avenue Q, Nine and many more.

The O'Neill's mission is to discover, develop & nurture new American artists for the stage and the Center fulfills this mission partly through its workshop productions of new plays, musical, puppetry & cabaret.

In addition, for nine months of the year, the Center is home to the National Theater Institute, accredited through Connecticut College.

The O'Neill Center is also charged with maintaining Eugene O'Neill's boyhood home in New London, the Monte Cristo Cottage, a National Historic Landmark and the setting for A Long Day's Journey Into Night.

Members asked questions about the submission process, the faculty and future plans – The O'Neill is expanding its Institute program for a focus on musical theatre.

No agent is needed for works submitted for the O'Neill's summer conference series.

Most recently 1000 plays were submitted for 8 slots in the summer schedule. 170 musicals were submitted for 3 to 4 slots in the same season.

Preston distributed summer 2011 schedules & invited Chamber members to attend a performance at The O'Neill for an evening of magic.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Note: June 23 meeting is Annual Meeting & will take place at Cherrystones.

Cathy Frank
5/23/11