

Minutes of the 14th Annual Meeting of Quimper Club International

The 14th annual business meeting of Quimper Club International (QCI) was held on October 22, 2012 at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Quimper Club International President Susan Cox called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM, and asked the members present to observe a moment of silence in memory of three Club members who had passed away since the last meeting: Michel Roulot, Stephen Priest and Guy Gilleland.

The President recognized Shirley Newsham and Judy Bernard and congratulated them on behalf of the Club for their outstanding work in organizing the Baton Rouge meeting; and the President also thanked husbands Tom Newsham and Chuck Bernard for their assistance.

The President thanked as well the Club officers and the Club liaisons in France the UK and the USA for their efforts during the past year. She also expressed the Club's appreciation to Colin Hull for his work in preparing an Index of all past Club journals (available on the Club website).

Upon motion made, seconded and voted on, the minutes of the 2011 Annual Business Meeting were approved.

The President next reviewed the past year and noted the following accomplishments:

1. The Club's ledger has been converted to Quicken software by Treasurer, Kathryn Gearheard.
2. The Club is in good financial shape and has over \$22,000 in cash on hand.
3. The half price gift membership program produced 28 new members.
4. The Club donated a faience plaque to the Musee de la Faience in honor of Michel Roulot.
5. The editor of the Journal has created guidelines for articles and pictures and the President urged any members with an interest in contributing to the Journal to review the guidelines.
6. The Journal's ad rates are now posted on the Club's website.

The President read the report of 2nd Vice President Katie Sledge. The report focused on the on the increased web activity of the Club and encouraged Club members to continue their input to the Club website. In addition, members were asked to post blogs on the Club's website to create and maintain interest between mailings of the monthly newsletter and the issues of Le Journal.

Secretary Rachel Papkin presented a report on the membership of the Club. She stated that the Club had 240 members, ten more than the preceding year; thirty-five of the present Club members are new members. The majority of Club members (175) come from the USA, and the state with the largest number is Texas with 38

members. There are 46 members in France, and the remaining members are from various European countries. The Secretary noted that the President deserves much of the credit for the number of new members because of her masterminding of the half price gift membership program and her personal efforts at recruiting.

The financial report of Treasurer Kathryn Gearheard was distributed to the members, and a copy of that report is attached to and made part of these minutes.

The President gave a report on the activities of Club Historian, Shelagh Ashley, who has been updating the records of the Club, and preparing them for storage on 'the Cloud'. The president stated that a complete set of the Journals has been presented to the Mayor of Quimper.

The President then turned to a discussion of new business beginning with the results of the online election of new officers. Election Chairman Emily McGriff presented the new Board to the members. The new Board and officers are:

President-Dr. Judy Bernard
1st VP- Dale Day
2nd VP- Katie Sledge
Secretary-Trudi Epstein
Treasurer- Kathryn Gearheard
Historian-Karen Davis

The President next informed the members of the Board's recommendation that the Club establish an award recognizing people and institutions in the field of faience. The award would be given to artists, authors, museums, collectors, faienceries, etc. The first award will go to Maurice Fouillen. The members were asked to indicate their preference for one of three suggested names for the award: QCI Founders Award; QCI Legends of Faience Award; and QCI Presidential Award. The members overwhelmingly approved 'Legends' and President Cox announced that a suitable plaque honoring Monsieur Fouillen (and future recipients of the award) will be designed and designated the QCI Prix des Legendes de Faience.

The President asked the members for their thoughts on the future of the half price gift membership program. No one suggested that the program be discontinued, but there were several suggestions for rewarding persons who produced new members. These included: an 80 per cent discount on dues for members who produce new members; reduced dues for two-tier membership, that is, spouse or family (two person limit); student discount for full time students; awarding a free membership to the person who produces the most new members during the year.

The President said that these suggestions could be considered by the new Board and reminded the members that membership renewal forms will be sent along with the year-end Le Journal. There was also a discussion of the three-year membership (discontinued by the current Board); the consensus was not to reinstate the three-year membership and the new Board will be advised of this recommendation.

The President then led a discussion of the use of business or promotional cards with information about QCI to be left with vendors or at gift shops. The members offered comments about the proposed format of such cards and how they might be distributed in order to achieve the widest possible dissemination. Dale Day proposed that the Club purchase 5000 cards and send 10 to each member. A motion to approve this proposal was adopted, and the President said that the Board would determine the content of the cards that would then be mailed to members along with the winter issue of Le Journal.

The President informed the members of a fund that is being set up by the family of Stephen Priest to honor his memory. Contributions to the Stephen Priest Fund will help fund the efforts of the Musee de la Faience to set up an English version of its website. Contributions by American Club members will not be tax deductible. Any direct contributions from individual members should be directed to the StephenRPriestFund @ gmail.com via Pay Pal. Alternatively, up until November 22 individual checks can be sent to Rachel Papkin (address in Directory on website) for collection and transmittal to the fund. The names of donors will be included.

The final item of new business was information that the Club will participate in the annual antiques fair to be held in Quimper on the weekend of November 9-11. The Club will share a booth (with the Musee de la Faience and Quimper.co) where membership forms will be available and a complete set of Le Journal will be displayed.

The President recognized 1st VP Dale Day who spoke about plans for the 2013 annual meeting to be held in St. Augustine, Florida. The meeting will take place from October 6 to October 10, 2013 with an after-meeting visit on October 11, 2013 to the Tiffany Museum in Winter Park, Florida to be led by Karen Davis. He reviewed the planned highlights of the St. Augustine meeting and indicated that there will more information in future issues of Le Journal.

The venue for the 2014 annual meeting will be Nice, France, with a possible pre-meeting event in Paris to view an important collection. The hosts will be Trudi and Neil Epstein. (Plans for a 2014 meeting in Brussels with Shelagh Ashley as hostess were cancelled as Shelagh is no longer able to go forward.)

There were two interesting presentations during the course of the meeting. The first was from Dorothy Howell who talked about the 'French House Quimper' at Louisiana State University (LSU). Between the 1920s and early 1940's, students of French lived, dined and spoke French in the French House on campus. One of the French House teachers purchased Quimper dinnerware in France and brought it back to Baton Rouge where it was used by the lucky students for dining. When the French House became a graduate dormitory, the Quimper collection was packed away. It has since been taken from storage and is currently on display at LSU where the attendees at the meeting will be able to see it.

John Sykes, the director of Magnolia Mound, the oldest surviving colonial plantation in Louisiana gave the second presentation. Mr. Sykes talked about the history of Baton Rouge, describing the various nationalities contributing to the development of Baton Rouge prior to the Louisiana Purchase, changes during the period leading up to the Civil War, and Baton Rouge's subsequent transformation into a significant business and industrial center and the capital of Louisiana. His talk included a number of slides showing Baton Rouge at different times in its history.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rachel Papkin
Secretary