

St. George Business Alliance
MEMBER MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
Town Office, Tenants Harbor

24 Meeting Attendees—Rick & Laura Betancourt (Carolwood Productions), Diana Bolton (Marshall Point Lighthouse), Jane Bracy (The Boathouse), Wendy Carr (Resident), Brendan Chase (Tenants Harbor Boatyard), Darlene & David Cocks (Pond House Gallery), Rebecca Crane (Machias Savings), Elizabeth Curtis (Town of St. George), Melinda Ferrazza (ASK...For Home Care), Diane Hall (True Hall Real Estate & Real Finds Consignment), Michael Hall (Hall Funeral Home), Sandra Hall (Resident), Jo Ann Hoppe (Blueberry Moose), Niki Dabrio Janczura (First National Bank), Greg Jones (Machias Savings), Alane Kennedy (St. George CDC), Jan & Rosemary Limmen (Blue Tulip), Jake Miller (First National Bank, Resident), Joanne O'Shea (Craignair Inn), Betsy Welch (St. George Dragon), Julie Wortman (Hedgerow, St. George Dragon).

Welcome—President Sandra Hall welcomed all attendees and invited them to introduce themselves. She reported that one meeting attendee suggested that we schedule 15 minutes of networking time before the 9:00 am start of all future morning member meetings. Attendees liked the idea.

Treasurer's Report, Membership—Interim Treasurer Diane Hall reported that SGBA has a total of \$3,721.75 in 3 bank accounts: General, Welcome Guide, and Merchant. The Merchant account was recently set up to accept online credit card payments for dues, ads and sponsorships. Between 2016 and 2017, SGBA experienced a 22% increase in the number of St. George members and a 66% increase in Affiliate members. Member dues collected increased by \$770.00. All of SGBA's annual events are now operating with more positive cash flows.

Board of Directors—SGBA added 3 Board members in 2017: Wendy Carr (Resident), Brendan Chase (Tenants Harbor Boatyard), and Mike Mastronardi (Yardbird Canteen). Treasurer Terry Banda resigned from the Board in the fall of 2017 for personal reasons. President Sandra Hall reminded members we are in search of a Treasurer and are seeking nominations for that office as well as additional board member positions.

The Board recently voted to consult professional advice in the areas of accounting and legal. As of this meeting, we have contacted Mike Nickerson, CPA of Nickerson & Associates in Belfast, to serve as SGBA's accountant. Board member Wendy Carr is also contacting local law firms to serve as the corporate clerk. The intention is to separate the duties associated with annual corporate filings from the Treasurer position and a review of our by-laws.

Betsy Welch and Joanne O'Shea asked for a clarification of SGBA's processes for announcing meetings, providing agendas and minutes for all monthly meetings, and for nominating, appointing and electing Board members. Sandra Hall and Rosemary Limmen indicated that, going forward, the Board needs to do a more consistent job of communicating this information, including meeting minutes, to all members.

Julie Wortman questioned the need for monthly meetings, especially in the summer. Board members confirmed that SGBA currently holds 8 monthly meetings (January, February, March, April, May, September, October & November) during business hours, either at the beginning or end of the day. Additionally, we offer "after hours" opportunities in June and July and a December Holiday Social. No meetings or events are scheduled for August.

The Board's goal is to communicate with members via email the details of upcoming meetings at least one week in advance with a reminder 2-days before the meeting. Going forward, we will include the meeting agenda and minutes from the prior month's meeting in this email. Meeting details are also posted on our webpage and on Facebook.

Betsy Welch asked if we should consider holding separate business meetings and meetings with speakers. Meeting attendees didn't see much need for such a change.

2017 Achievements

- 1) **"Welcome to St. George" Visitors Guide.** 1,500 guides were published, purchased, and distributed to SGBA members and inns, hotels in Rockland. Sale of guide ads and guides added significantly to our Treasury. Hats off to SGBA members Betsy Welch and Julie Wortman, Dragon's Breath Communications, for creating this informative resource and reference booklet showcasing St. George businesses, history, and events.

Planning for the 2018 guide is underway. We expect to provide additional information about church services, limo and taxi services, supermarkets, laundry, dry cleaning, etc. Mike Mastronardi, Brendan Chase and Rosemary Limmen have teamed up to contact these and other service providers that both residents and visitors may be seeking. SGBA membership is required to advertise in the guide.

- 2) **Annual Events**—Another successful year for SGBA’s “Welcome Aboard Expo and Job Fair” in April, Memorial Day weekend’s “Sales into the Season” summer kick-off event, “Touring Peninsula Art” event in September, and Thanksgiving weekend’s “Yuletide in St. George.” Our members also participated in July’s “St. George Days” parade and manned an Information Booth and attended our most popular Holiday Social to date at the Knox Museum.
- 3) **Speakers, Meeting Programs**—Positive reviews for two programs: “Pulling on the Same Line” St. George fisheries presentation in February, and Year-End Financial “Hot Tips” Panel in November.

NOTE: Please send suggestions for future meeting locations and speakers of interest to Rosemary Limmen at rlimmen@gmail.com.
- 4) **Facebook for Business Classes**—Collaborated with the Island Institute, the St. George CDC (Community Development Corporation) and the Jackson Memorial Library to hold 3 Facebook classes in November. Six to eight SGBA members and St. George residents attended each class and provided positive feedback.
- 5) **Community Thanksgiving Dinner**—SGBA members donated food and supported the CDC in its first communal dinner undertaking at the St. George School.
- 6) **Scholarship Committee**—SGBA is looking to establish a program in 2018 to benefit St. George high school graduates, using funds generated by the sale of Welcome Guide ads and booklets.
- 7) **Maine Association of Non-Profits (MANP)**—SGBA has joined MANP to benefit from the organization’s programs, conferences and online financial information and advice. Annual dues are \$100.
- 8) **Online Credit Card Processing**—Beginning in January 2018, SGBA members will be able to pay their membership dues and payments for Guide ads and event sponsorships online using the PayPal credit card processing platform.
- 9) **Website Upgrades**—Alane Kennedy will continue to provide routine web maintenance and upgrades. We have added two website professionals, Jeff Boulet and John Maltais, both SGBA members, to the reactivated Website Committee.

Upcoming Member Meetings

Tuesday, **February 27, 2018** (Craignair Inn, Clark Island Road)
9:00 am Meeting Start; 8:45 am Networking & Coffee (with Mike O’Shea’s yummy muffins!)
Speakers TBD

Tuesday, **March 20, 2018**
9:00 am Meeting; 8:45 Coffee & Networking
Speakers/Location TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Rosemary Limmen, SGBA Board Member
January 19, 2018
Approved: 2/6/18