



The Southeast Rag



June 2023

The Southeast MBSI Newsletter

Volume 41, No. 1

2023 Chapter Officers:

Chair: Jim Kracht

Vice Chair: Jack Hostetler

Secretary: Julie Morlock

Treasurer: Bob Yates

Immediate Past Chair: Wayne Myers

Chair Emeritus: Mary Ellen Myers

Committee Leaders:

Librarian: Dan Wilson

Membership: Julie Morlock

Newsletter: Mary-Ann Hostetler

Reporter: David Oppenheim

Webmaster: Dani Klein

Chairpersons' Message:



As Vice Chair covering for Jim Kracht while he is recovering from surgery, I will try to speak on his behalf. Although Jim could not make the Tampa event, I know he would have had a wonderful time, as all of us who could be there did. The Friday tour of the Theatre was wonderful, with our own Stephen Brittain giving us a grand concert on the theater organ. That evening we had an unbelievable feast and Flamenco performance at the Columbia Restaurant.

The Saturday morning business meeting went well and is detailed below. The same day we held a mart and show and tell, visited the beautiful Martin/Bauer open house, and the astounding Yafee open house and dinner Saturday night. Sunday completed the splendid event with the Wyman open house.

As always, the SE Chapter meeting and event was magnificent.

Jack Hostetler Vice Chair

Welcome new chapter members:

Ken Envall & daughter Amy Envall – St. Cloud

Mike & Nancy Walizer – The Villages

Dani Kline -South Boston, MA

Julie Morlock Minutes of the meeting.

The spring meeting of the Southeast Chapter, held in Tampa, FL on June 3, 2023, was called to order at 9:00 am by Vice Chair Jack Hostetler.

Jack gave an update on Chair Jim Kracht's health issues. He then welcomed new chapter members Ken Envall and daughter Amy, as well as guests Mike and Nancy Walizer, Victor Cole, Jay Dutton, James Wilkie and Ed Duncan's family (Suzanne Granfield, Chris and Tammy Duncan).

Jack thanked Mark Yaffe for organizing the meeting and holding an open house; and also John Martin, Norman Bauer and Howard Wyman for hosting open houses.

Jack presented Wayne Myers with a plaque for Outstanding Service as chapter chair for 2022. Wayne will pass the gavel to Jim Kracht at a later date.

Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting, held November 12, 2022 were approved as printed in the last issue of the Southeast Rag.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Yates sent a report that we had \$8,500.29 in the checking account prior to this meeting. He filed with the state of Florida for our not-for-profit corporation status in February.

Membership: Julie Morlock recognized new member Ken Envall and his daughter Amy. Julie reported that since the last meeting we had three members pass away (Meryl Torin from Sarasota, Howard Sanford from Miami and Wayne Edmonston from Windermere). A motion was made and approved to send \$75.00 each to the Endowment Fund in their memory. Julie reported that there were 75 members with dues currently paid at both national and chapter levels; letters had been sent to members still needing to pay dues. She hoped to send out an updated directory in June.

Library: Dan Wilson sent a report that as of June 2023, there were no requests for library materials since the meeting in Dahlonga, GA last fall. Jack Hostetler encouraged

members to make use of the library. Julie Morlock noted that a list of books is available on the chapter website.

Website: Clay Witt reported that things have been quiet since COVID, and he was hoping to get some good pictures from this meeting to post on the website. Jack Hostetler thanked Clay for a job well done.

Photographer/Reporter: David Oppenheim noted it was his first official meeting as photographer.

Newsletter: Jack Hostetler said Mary-Ann Hostetler would send out the Southeast Rag with all the news about the meeting.

Unfinished Business: Wayne Myers discussed the disposition of the remaining table favors. We have many left over as 275 were made for the annual meeting, but we had a low turnout. He had twelve at the meeting for sale at \$25.00 each (four were sold) and more at home. Jack Hostetler and Mary Ellen Myers talked about assembling the favors. Mary-Ann Hostetler suggested chapter members buy them as presents for family and friends. Cotton Morlock asked if the circus people in Sarasota had been approached to buy them; Mary Ellen Myers said they had done so and were working with Sally Craig on that. Linda Alster suggested selling them at The Villages arts and crafts marts; Mary Ellen Myers said there were costs and regulations, but they were looking at the Lake Mary craft fair.

Mary Ellen Myers discussed the MBSI traveling exhibit made by Southeast Chapter member George Fryer for the purpose of advertising MBSI. It is large, difficult to store and expensive to ship. It is currently stored at Bill Endlein's but we have to wait for his estate to be settled to get it. She believes that the best place to keep it is at the American Treasure Tour facility in Pennsylvania. Clay Witt suggested working with Sally Criag on that. Wayne Myers described the exhibit and containers. Cotton Morlock said the first thing to do is to have the chapter vote to give it to National, and offered to pick it up from the Endleins' when it is available. A motion was made and approved to give it to National. Jack Hostetler noted that it had been used at past Christmas Exhibits at The Villages. Martin Van Zanten noted that a smaller, more convenient display would be easier to use.

Mary Ellen Myers brought Conflict of Interest forms for anyone in charge of a committee/chapter to sign. Cotton Morlock questioned signing these every year; discussion ensued that the state of New York requires it yearly.

New Business:

Future Meetings:

Vice Chair Jack Hostetler asked for volunteers to host future meetings, asking for possibilities of an east coast meeting. John Martin suggested contacting the Janckos.

Jack Hostetler also reported that we were set for the 10th annual Christmas Exhibit at The Villages. Last year went well, due to several interview spots on The Villages radio station and a newspaper article, although the exhibit was somewhat smaller than hoped for. Jack said you don't have to bring a car full of machines; bring just one or two machines with a story. If we don't have more displays, we may not be able to continue the exhibit, or may have to use only one room. Mary Ellen Myers reported that The Villages Summer Camp might not happen; if not, they could give out the small music box kits to children at the Christmas Exhibit. (In fact we were not invited to do the Camp Village music box project this year. Jack H.)

Jack Hostetler also reported that the upcoming MBSI annual meeting would be in St. Paul, MN over the Labor Day weekend.

Wayne Myers gave information about the dollar draw to be held at the Martin/Bauer Open house at 2:30 pm.

Jim Kracht called in to say hello, reported an update on his condition, and thanked those who helped with the meeting.

Julie Morlock asked members to sign a card for Jim Kracht.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Report on our Visits to Tampa Theatre and 3 amazing collections

The visit to the Tampa Theatre Friday was great. The woman who led us on our tour gave a very detailed presentation on the history of the theater from it's start to the present operation. We were shown the main theater auditorium as well as the working and dressing rooms below the stage. Stephen has performed at the theater several times, and he gave us an outstanding concert.

Our dinner at the restaurant Friday night was very well served and the Brazilian Dancers were beautiful and very talented.

The tour of Norman and John's home was amazing, especially to everyone who saw it for the first time. They live among a marvelous collection of music machines and Tiffany

Glass in every room. We also had a Dollar Draw that was a lot of fun as we saw who won each drawing. Their pet parrot gave us it's own concert.

Saturday evening dinner right among the Yaffee collection followed by several hours touring the musical machines and numerous Automata was astounding. Mark personally started each one as asked to do so, and we spent a wonderful 4 hours among the music and performing automata. Then on Sunday, we visited Howard Wyman's open house.

Jack Hostetler
Vice Chair

Addendum from Jim Kracht

I'm pleased to again say hi to all of our members. I thank all of you who were able to attend our meeting in Tampa and reports are that attendance and enjoyment rank very high. This is all we hope for, and the good reports were appreciated. This is all super.

Second, my thanks goes to Stephen Brittain for a job (more than well done). You are the best and I long await to hear the concert.

Mark Yaffe, as always, comes through for the chapter. I'm sure the open house was wonderful. Thank you Mark for all you did to make it an awesome meeting. Thanks must also go to John Martin, Norman Bauer and Howard Wyman for their great hospitality and the preview of their wonderful collections.

We will begin talking about the "where" and "when" for our next meeting, and hope for a volunteer or two to come forth.

Thank you to Julie and Cotton for all you did to assist in making our Tampa meeting a true success.

Lastly, thank you to Mary-Ann Hostetler for the job she has continued so unselfishly to do with the Southeast Rag. Without her we would not have communications with our members. Your husband Jack, like you, is always there and can be counted on.

Welcome again to our new members.

As for me, I continue to push forward, more like the tortoise though, slow and steady. I still have a long way to go. Tomorrow most likely I will be moved from the Christine Lynn Rehab Facility to the Riviera Nursing Home Facility in Coral Gables. I continue to be blessed and drive forward by the many calls, cards and visits from friends including MBSI members, and family.

My sincere best wishes for a happy and healthy summer.

Finally, we do need to do another zoom meeting, so volunteers would be welcome.

Jim Kracht
Chair SE Chapter MBSI