Strangers No Longer Zoom Meeting Minutes: May 23, 2023

**Attendance:**  Julie Watanabe, Rose Pikor, Sue Johnston, Fiona Archer, Kathy Best, Cyndi Malow,

Donna Nesbitt, Mary Lou LaTorre , Pat Watanabe

**Opening Prayer:** Julie Watanabe

**Updates:**

* Advocacy Week for Drive Safe bills: May 19th-25th. Registration can be made on the

website: <https://strangersnolonger.org/>). When we register we will be given information on who our legislators are and also with sample emails to send to them and to any other friends. We can choose only parts of the registration and will be given all the information we need to process.

* There have been changes in staff positions. Sr. Martha is no longer going to be our coordinating staff member and will no longer be at our monthly zoom meetings. Bill O’Brien will now take that position. However, she will be available if we need any help in dealing with the Mujeres women. She will be working with new immigrant Circles. Julie will present an invitation to Bill O’Brien to begin attending our zoom meetings. She will present to him his part as an observer during our meetings. If he needs to add to an agenda, Julie will ask him to notify her before the meeting takes place so that she can place it on the agenda for us to have before the meetings.
* Some discussion was had on how our meetings are organized and productive and we weren’t sure how other Circles were processing their meetings.

**Christian Service Updates:**  Cyndi emailed the report to all and the minutes were accepted.

**New/Continued Circle Business:**

* Pat W. brought back information on the Fundraiser Luncheon from her follow-up meeting. We might not be able to use the same venue next year, since it only holds 400 people and talk was of increasing it to 500 guests. We paid $6800 for the food and gave each server $50 as tip ($200). The dancers were paid $500. The sale from the booklets generated $15,000, which was a little lower than last year. This might have been because the booklets were sent out at a later date than last year. We made $3,000 on the baskets, which was double that of last year. We ended up with 29 baskets. Eleven of those were from St. Michael’s. Much credit and success was given to Cyndi, who worked so hard in coordinating all the baskets. Pat W. has declined to be the chairperson for the Luncheon for next year.
* We agreed to once again read a summer book for discussion. We will meet in June, not July, but then meet again in August to discuss our book. Julie already has found a book related to immigration found in the Bible but will do more research and will send out a survey on our thoughts about choosing what she finds for us to read.

**Upcoming Items:**

* Juarez baby is due in about a week. She will be having a baby shower, but we will wait to see what she will eventually need before we help with a gift.
* We will generate an article for the Bulletin on our recent projects (Easter baskets, Lenten Communion Service, Luncheon fundraiser). Julie plans on writing the article, but she invited anyone else who would like to write it to let her know. We discussed sharing the article with other Churches (Our Church Families) so as to inform them on what we are doing so that they could share the information with their parishioners.

**Next Meeting:**  Tuesday, June 20th at 7PM on Zoom **Agenda:** Julie

**Activity Survey:** Before our June meeting, Julie will send out a survey where we can list the projects we have liked doing and also any ideas for new projects might be able to do.

**Minutes:**  Rose

**Book Voting Form:** Before our June meeting, Julie will send out choices for voting on which summer book we would like to read.

**Opening Prayer:** Pat Boland-Saoud **Closing Prayer:** Rose Pikor

**Communication with Kathy Chadick (bulletin):** Julie

**Communication with Michelle Hayes (Facebook)):** Fiona

**Closing Prayer:** Pat Watanabe