

WISITALIA

Meeting Minutes

7/24/10

Present: B. Hasley, D. Cicero, R. Prigioni, T. Bruno, J. Stenson P. Pingitore, A. Rolandi, R. Annina

Announcements: Don Cicero briefly gave an update about the Roma Lodge Festa. He said that the first night was very busy and was glad to see so much support from the community.

Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Mitchell assumed the role of treasurer as of July 1, 2010. At the time of this meeting, she was out of the country and unable to give the Treasurer's Report. She will give her update via email when she returns.

Website Report: Our Facebook page now has 304 fans (update: 309 fans as of 8/3/10). For a one-month period of time (June 22 – July 23, 2010), our website had 1,368 visits, with 3,172 pages viewed, and 1,049 new visitors. 70 percent of the visits were from new viewers. The website also averages 50 visitors a day. The most viewed pages during this time frame were the Home page, the Links page, the Events - Festas page, the Clubs page, and the Events page. Most people access the site through the use of search engines (56%), referring sites (24%) and by direct traffic (20%).

Currently, Rita Prigioni will be starting a Website committee. Two or three people have expressed interest, and she is looking for volunteers to assist with the web content. Committee members would help research and write articles for the website. Rita will also work with UW-Madison Piazza Italia to translate these or other articles into Italian. Also, she'd like the Italian teachers to encourage their students to write brief items or poetry to post on the website.

Board Reports

- **Racine:**
 - Bill Pucci is still working with the principals of Prairie School, Lutheran High, and St. Catherine High School to incorporate Italian into their curriculums.

- **Kenosha:**
 - On July 23 and 24, approximately 30 students participated in a summer opera performance of *La Cenerentola* and *The Magic Flute*. WisItalia was mentioned as a sponsor in the program.
 - Indian Trail High School will begin offering Italian as part of the curriculum during the 2010-11 school year.
 - St. Joseph Catholic Academy is searching for a full-time Italian teacher.

- Nash Elementary had a successful summer Italian program for 18-20 children. The teachers and principal will be meeting to determine if the Italian program will continue into the 2010-11 school year.
 - Holy Rosary will continue with its Saturday Italian program in the fall.
 - Roma Lodge will be offering Italian classes, taught by Ralph Annina.
 - Pete and Ralph will work with the principal of St. Therese-Mt. Carmel to resolve some issues that occurred during the school year.
- **Green Bay:**
 - There was no report at this time. Italian will be taught by Lisa Meli at both Preble and East High Schools for the 2010-11 school year.
- **Milwaukee:**
 - Al Rolandi will speak to local Italian businesses about donating to or becoming sponsors of WisItalia.
 - Eleonora Cammareri was unable to attend Victory's graduation ceremony this summer. However, she will visit Victory in the fall to help further establish the program.
 - Tom Ballistreri is very sure that some of the materials purchased with WisItalia funds for Rufus King can be returned to us for re-distribution, and he is hopeful that any of the unspent funds can be returned to us.
 - **Madison:** Giovanna Miceli Jefferies was unable to attend the meeting, but sent the following report:
 - The Italian program at Wright Middle School has been discontinued due to lack of funds. They will no longer be supported by Chicago's Italidea.
 - Spring Harbor will offer Italian only to eighth grade students this coming school year. After that, it is likely that this program will be discontinued as well, as they are also losing their funding from Chicago's Italidea.
 - Frank Alfano will assume the role of Madison representative.

Grant Summary Reports: Almost all teachers and schools have now returned their grant summary reports. Changes to the report for next year will include how much money was given to the recipient and that more specific details are given about what the funds were used for. Rita will use snippets from these reports on the website to show how WisItalia supports Italian programs. From these reports, it was also noted that all but two teachers are now certified to teach Italian in the public school system in Wisconsin.

Updated Forms Review:

- Rita suggested that teachers look at the grant summary report when they receive their funds and keep in mind the information they will need to fill out at the end of the year. A motion by Al Rolandi and seconded by Peter Pingitore was

approved for putting a statement on the application that funds would be paid out at the discretion of the board.

- The forms for grants, teaching certification, and education conferences were split into three separate applications. These forms also now ask for specific information. Al Rolandi motioned for a vote on the change, Don Cicero seconded it, and it was approved.
- There is now a form that potential members of WisItalia can fill out. In order to join the organization, one would have to fill out the form and choose a committee to join.

Other Business: Rita raised the topic of fundraising and shared that WisItalia now has a PayPal account. She also gave several suggestions that included having each Italian club donate at least \$100; mobile giving, where people could donate via text messages; and having teachers give out WisItalia brochures at conferences and other student events.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held on October 23, 2010 at the ICC in Milwaukee from 10 am to noon.

Notes by Joanna Stenson