**VOLUNTEER PARTY COMMENTS – Bill Johnston**

I started to write the Google survey form on an anonymous basis, but after some time writing a few sentences, I knew that wasn't the right way to go.

I've attended most volunteer parties since 1999-2005 and then from 2006-2017 served as a director, President, assistant to the BOD, or Madeline’s helper, so I helped conduct them or helped compose the volunteer list.

I compiled all the final volunteer lists from 2006 – 2016.

In the same period I obtained and mailed (some with help, some by myself), the written VP invitations until we switched over to emailing the invitations, in 2012 or 2013.

I obtained many of the ABC licenses for that period.

I’ve prepared a chart of Volunteer Party facts to assist you and the Board to discuss how the next BOD Volunteer Party might be planned and conducted.

I don’t think you need an extensive set of comments from either Madeline or I about the 2018 party. Madeline has said:

1 Band too loud for the room, 2 Food not great 3 Ran out of wine

Some history remarks might be helpful. Will keep these short, then some comments.

When I became involved in 2006 as a director, I found that Judy Burlbaugh had created “How To” documents, list of equipment to bring, suggested food items, etc.

* For the 2006 VP, Donna B as president, Jennifer Bine, Sylvia Lynch and I took these as gospel and organized the party. Donna did not assist.
* 2007 & 2008, Bill J as president, Judy was the primary organizer, with help from Terri K, Tammy W, Terry B, Terry M, Pete C Geoffrey, and me.

In 2011, I created a detailed step by step set of instructions, start to finish, and got input from Madeline…purchase lists for food, beverages, and equipment. Used for the 2011 VP (Frank Wilson, president) and then 2012-2014 VP’s (Madeline’s 3 yrs as president). Provided to Peter H for 2015 & 2016. Provided these to Mary Kay for 2017 party, although she recruited Madeline to run that party.

I propose to list now, “Principles That Should Govern the SCWDC Volunteer Party”

1. Start planning in February or March (where, what music, which director to coordinate)
	1. Assumption: Most volunteers are coming to relax and talk, not so much to dance and this has been true for years going back to the mid-2000’s
	2. Assumption: Commercial sites and catering are too expensive, hence, no catering (see footnote) and use of the Fairlington Community Center because it’s a bargain and large enough
	3. No band, room is too small – DJ is best
2. Ask all of the directors to be involved
3. Invite volunteers in July
4. Plan to buy “excellent” food, wine and beer, & nothing “bargain basement”
	1. Wegman’s trays have costed about $800 each time
	2. Wine: $10 - $16 per bottle with backup wine from Black Box (3 liter boxes)
	3. Premium beer, $20-$24 per case, mix of regular and lite
	4. Soft drinks and water – mix of sugar, diet, no caffeine

10/1 addition:

1. Remind the senior officer of the evening to introduce all BOD members present
2. Remind BOD members to wear their SCWDC name badges: the office manager is responsible for ordering professional name badges with a week of a BOD member becoming a BOD member

End notes:

Before certain BOD directors destroyed valuable historical paperwork from the office, I found a document that showed that the Club used to have the event catered because 130-150 attended, well beyond the capability of directors to conduct the party.

As of board members of the past several years have been elected with less event leader/chairperson experience and shorter membership periods, this might have affected the planning for volunteer parties. Here, I am referring to Judy Burlbaugh, Toni Castagnolo, & Madeline Metcalfe, long time members who served in many roles for many years and attended many VP’s, compared to the current directors with shorter service periods and who have attended fewer volunteer parties.

Going back to my periods of service starting in 2006 and until now, I believe that “all of us” in senior positions have made a big mistake. We eliminated the annual Who’s Who which had the pictures of the president, BOD directors, and chairs. Who knows who they are? This has not been replaced by any of our several web sites. The Who’s Who was eliminated during the “Ken Eng” web site era because any member could access another member’s info; ditto with “Memberize” although then any member could restrict his/her individual personal elements and I (as administrator) did not allow street addresses to be visible. Now with Wild Apricot, no member can access anyone else’s information, only blind copy email is possible. We need more visibility for all officers, regardless of the particular means. “Board Notes” used to be a feature in the magazine and actually, this is a Bylaws requirement. Translate this to “No Magazine”…Print the WW again or post on the web site. IMHO, the posting of BOD minutes is not sufficient on the web site, there could and should be an “Executive Summary” like Board Notes. The magazine is not regularly downloaded by members.

The 2017 VP planned and run by Madeline is the best model. Widely regarded as successful with Wegmans food platters, cooked shrimp, and flowers on the table. Wine recognizable by their labels but not expensive. Madeline’s own food preparation was limited to buying frozen, cooked shrimp and thawing. Tasks, when broken down, are not that complicated.

An excellent volunteer party is a labor of love by a few people.

FYI – Recap of Past and Current President and BOD

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **ELECTION DATE** | **President** | **Board Members DURING THIS PERIOD** |
| 2006-07 | 4/2006 | Donna Brother | Bill Johnston, Frank Wilson, Geoffrey Pennoyer, Jennifer Bine, Ken Eng, Rene Thierry, Sylvia Lynch, Terry Masser |
| 2007-08 | 4/2007 | Bill Johnston | Frank Wilson, Judy Burlbaugh, Ken Eng, Pete Campbell, Terri Kitcoff, Terry Brotherton, Terry Masser, Geoffrey Pennoyer |
| 2008-09 | 4/2008 | Bill Johnston | Dennis Baba, Judy Burlbaugh, Ken Eng, Pete Campbell, Tammy Weber, Terri Kitcoff, Toni Castagnolo Leo Boelhouwer (Oct/08 +forward) |
| 2009-10 | 4/2009 | Leo Boelhouwer | Betty Potter, Dennis Baba, Don Kersten, Lu Wright, Mary Jo Porreca, Rene Thierry, Tammy Weber, Terri Kitcoff, Toni Castagnolo |
| 2010-11 | 4/2010 | Leo Boelhouwer | Terri Kitcoff, Betty Potter, Carol Finley, Dennis Baba, Don Kersten, Geoffrey Pennoyer, Joe Gilbert, Lu Wright, Mary Jo Porreca |
| 2011-12 | 4/2011 | Frank Wilson | Dennis Baba, Leo Boelhouwer, Carol Finley, Joe Gilbert, Bill Johnston, Madeline Metcalfe, Nancy Shimp, Lu Wright, |
| 2012-13 | 4/2012 | Madeline Metcalfe | Cyndy Lavoie, Bill Johnston, Leo Boelhouwer, Rene Thierry, Lu Wright, Carol Finley, Nancy Shimp, Patrick Normyle |
| 2013-14 | 4/2013 | Madeline Metcalfe | Gene Lee, Margaret Schwartz, Peter Hartogensis, Bill Johnston, Leo Boelhouwer, Carol Finley, Patrick Normyle, Rene Thierry |
| 2014-15 | 4/2014 | Madeline Metcalfe | Margaret Schwartz, Peter Hartogensis, Bill Johnston, Leo Boelhouwer, Alicia McCarthy, Mary Kay Hrivnak, Chris Klocek, Normandie Lee |
| 2015-16 | 4/2015 | Peter Hartogensis | Leo Boelhouwer, Alicia McCarthy, Mary Kay Hrivnak, Chris Klocek, Normandie Lee, Mike Favole, Carol Finley, Charles Lorenzetti |
| 2016-17 | 4/2016 | Peter Hartogensis | Leo Boelhouwer, Mary Kay Hrivnak, Chris Klocek, Mike Favole, Carol Finley, Megan O'Connor, Charles Lorenzetti, David Toms |
| 2017-18 | 4/2017 | Chris Klocek | Leo Boelhouwer, Mary Kay Hrivnak, Charles Lorenzetti, Foster Stotle, Gina Dolin, Donna Harris, Rene Thierry, Cindy Wallace, Megan O'Connor, David Toms, Susan Jacobson |
| 2018-19 | 4/2018 | Gary Rubens | Jelena Berberovic, Leo Boelhouwer, Donna Harris, Mary Kay Hrivnak, Charles Lorenzetti, Foster Stotle, Rene Thierry, Cindy Wallace |

Volunteer Party Fact Recap (Excel file printed landscape), Separate file