

# **LDEI 2016 Annual Conference**

## **Planning Committee Notes**

**Thursday, May 19, 2016**

**5-5:24 p.m.**

**Conference Call**

### **Meeting Participants:**

Drew Faulkner

Susan James

Kari Barrett (end of call)

Polly Wiedmaier

### **Meeting Notes:**

- **Planning Committee Chairs' Report**

Drew Faulkner updated the group to let folks know that Kari Barrett has stepped down as Planning Committee Co-chair and that Polly Wiedmaier and Ann Stratte have agreed to serve as Committee Chairs with Drew. Drew noted she is tracking Planning Committee progress on the timeline worksheet and it looks like all planning activities are currently on track. Drew also mentioned that Summer Whitford, a new LDE DC member, has come onto the Planning Committee as the Public Relations Chair. Additionally, on April 28, Ann Stratte, Drew and Deborah Moser had an artisan market planning meeting/tour with Fairmont Hotel staff.

- **Committee Reports:**

#### **Optional Tours Committee:**

Drew Faulkner reported for Katherine Newell Smith that Katherine has found leaders for all the tours. Cathy Barrow will lead the charcuterie tour and Bonnie Benwick will lead the Union Market tour. Katherine is working with Edie Hogan on lining up transportation for the tours.

#### **Educational Sessions Committee:**

Drew Faulkner reported for Stacey Adams that the current focus of the Educational Sessions Committee is securing speakers for the nine sessions. One recently confirmed speaker is Tim Harlan, Tulane University, who is also known as Dr. Gourmet and leads a

program at the university that is focused on nutrition and cooking in the education of physicians.

**Food and Beverage Committee:**

Polly Wiedmaier spoke on plans for the Thursday night Dine Around events. The group is planning for ten restaurants to participate with details on the Dine Arouns near completion. In regards to Friday night Union Station dinner, Polly is looking into creative options with Lisa Bodager that will make the evening truly spectacular.

**Hospitality Committee:**

Drew Faulkner reported on the recent hotel site visit to consider plans for the artisan market space and how it will operate. Drew reported that the Charleston conference planning folks found the market to be very successful but they weren't obliged to pay the hotel for set-up, etc. With the Fairmont, the Committee is looking at various set-up options so that a discount can be provided to market vendors. Vendors will include LDE DC Dames as well as women non-Dames who might be interested in participating. In planning the overall conference, the Hospitality Committee wants to be sure that people have time to shop. An author's book signing will also be planned in conjunction with the market for a specified period of time.

**Goody Bags Committee:**

Drew Faulkner reported that Alison Ricketts has started soliciting for donations.

**Fundraising Committee:**

Susan James reported on the Committee's work with partners to engage them in the conference. The Committee plans to reach out near-term to Reston Limousine and Airlie House. The Committee is also working with Stacy Zeigler, LDEI International First Vice President, to create a "Patron" program for donors at the \$500 level. LDEI will provide administrative support for "Patron" fundraising efforts.

**Adjourn**