

August 22, 2020 Virtual Meeting of the Chautauqua Trail

Attending:

Wawasee	Mark Knecht Ann Strong Mary Morreto
Chautauqua	Deb LeBarron Susan Luehrs Emily Morris
Mt. Gretna	Kathy Snavely
Ocean Park	Frank Gwalthney Jerry Gosselin Kathy and Ted Wade David Keene
Canada	Mary Lou and Randy Gardner
Bay View	David Antonini Betsy Harvey (from Switzerland)
Muskoka	Glad Gayle Dempsey and Gary Froude Andrea Bickle Diane
Lakeside	Nancy and Bill Carlson Bob Brucken
Monteagle	Scott Parrish Pam and Greg Maloof Jim Humphries
Waxahachie	Maureen and Kirk Hunter Bruce BonFleur

Muskoka Report (Gayle) – of course, did virtual programming and showed us some photos; broadcasted live performances; paddle painting project, the creations of which will be auctioned off next year as part of their anniversary celebration; discussed some of the festivities for next year's plans in the works; costs underwritten for programming by the provincial and Canadian governments (had slide show)

Chautauqua, NY (Emily) – expressed her sadness as how much they are missing meeting together there today, and thanked Deb for her work in setting the meeting up; decided May 2 not to have a live season and to go virtual; no events were hosted on-grounds, but people were permitted to be on the grounds; lake, golf, etc. accessible to visitors; requiring a gate pass (free) so those on grounds can be reached; offered slides showing us their virtual programming; you can find their video platform for programming available via their website; can view programming without a subscription; designed to work like Netflix or other commonly used software; biggest complaint is there's too much content; visual arts programming content is most restricted, available only for a short period of time; again, no subscription required but registration is (thanks to Zoom bombers); online classes are available and will continue throughout the year; described a literary program utilizing Merge; using feedback to see how people are “digesting” this way of doing programming; mentioned one of their programs was broadcasted from Montecagle! Kirk described his pleasure in participating in their programming, as did Gayle – as much as how they inspired Muskoka's direction. Three ways of organizing programming categories: 1) using existing content, 2) CHQ originals (newly created content that didn't fit in the schedule they compiled for this season; highlighting the CHQ community and county – things made here, emerging industries, etc.) and 3) partnership content. Moving into their normal planning cycle for next year.

Technology purchased: created via LiveWebinar for their Virtual Porch, also Vimeo (as they can create their own television-like channels) made available On Demand with permission of the speakers, Bot Industries for learning management systems, Visual Arts website built in a WordPress website, Poetry Maker space created with the support of a donor and Kent State University (done within a WordPress website format); again, perhaps tried to do too much, but they learned a great deal about the process and how people responded to things.

From initial analysis, majority of users are 65+, which is a reflection of their usual audience. Did some programming targeted to young people. Are skewing a little younger than usual; cannot ascertain until later in the season. 89% of subscribers who responded to surveys who participate are Caucasian; want to work on that some more. Invested time/resources into platforms and would be happy to offer classes through their management systems for us before anyone

invests OR can offer solely through CHQ NY programming/software outlets. Emily is VP for marketing and communications, and Exec Producer for the Assembly. Started her career in television production. Hundreds of staff members have contributed to make this season possible. Gayle again thanked them for being so inspiring, and is excited about the potential moving forward. She asked if there is programming for elementary and secondary students. Robust arts education system existing, yes, they are offering programming for these ages. Is also available to county youth. The Young Playrights project will be expanding, as are other arts education programming.

Waxahachie (Kirk): Talked about program, “ChautauqWhat?” that Jon (the historian at CHQ offered) and recommended it to us; their planning theme for their one-day event was celebrating Native American Indians; two people on their board boast that heritage and took the lead; then COVID hit; their auditorium is on city grounds, and they had to cancel their program to comply. They had a bday party celebration on July 26 virtually; one of their board members is an astrophysicist and offered a virtual program; started working on a new strategic plan before COVID and trying to figure their way through this. One of the projects on their list is to get wifi into the auditorium, which they’re working on with the city – will likely happen before the end of the year. Maureen added that the theme is postponed until next year; Kirk and Maureen were set to “retire,” but aren’t until the strategic plan is carried through. Hoping to “retire” by the end of the year, but it’s hard to find others with the passion to pick up leadership. Yes, would be happy to share their strategic plan when it’s completed. Still planning to stay involved in the trail, though!!

Lakeside (Bob) – different track than CHQ; reduced programming and gate fees with a mixture of outside and Zoom programming; attendance is less, of course; have had several cases of the virus but it’s been contained; one week of the season remaining; basic change is that programming is thinner, but otherwise it’s similar to past years

Wawasee (Mark) – 12 months of programming, usually running between 1-3 days; March through July programming cancelled; did an outdoor art show last week; have four women’s suffrage programs coming up; three native American programs in September and an old-fashioned Christmas for the balance of the

year. Looking for some ideas for programming moving forward. Mark, responding to a question, reminded us they have no facility of their own. They rent what they need locally.

Andrea – not currently connected to any CHQ; will come back to her

Ocean Park (Dave): introduced Jerry and how much they would have struggled without him this year, as the state of Maine has been very restrictive in allowing out-of-staters to come in. Noted the Canadian border is closed, so their occupancy is off over 50%. They did publish their programs as usual and has been able to carry on a good portion of that programming. Has had virtual Sunday morning services. July 4, missed their big parade, but Kathy Wade's committee came up with a drive-by parade which worked very well. Outdoor programs have been continued. Limited programming for kids. Limited educational programming, both virtual and in person. Many musical programs cancelled because of COVID provisions. Had their annual meeting at the Temple with limited attendance. Has had many Zoom meetings, like most of us. People have been very appreciative of what has been offered. Jerry added that their Sunday services have developed beyond their expectations, with his iPhone and microphone (quality much better than expected). He'll be asking programming committees to have live and virtual options for the 2021 season; they can do more next year, with this year's experience. While it's eerily quiet, it's still been a good season. Also has a strategic planning committee at work, and the religion period will get significant attention. Kathy Wade added that their potential has been limited by statewide restrictions, but they've learned a lot this season.

Frank added that because we're in different states, each has had their own set of rules to adhere to – which has impacted all of us.

Monteagle (Scott) – things were awfully different; we all shared stress in the spring trying to figure out what their options were. Will be delving more into online next year, and thanked Emily for her input. Reduced gate fees. Overall attendance reduced by about 20%. Many adaptations in office processes and more. Tennis and pickle-ball have been allowed, with advance reservations, temperature taking, etc. Although the county had enormous growth in COVID, there was no outbreak in the assembly, for which he is grateful. They took a big

financial hit, but they had the long term plan in place to take care of it. People really wanted the religious programming offered. Jim said that Scott did a great job of making programming available through the season.

Bay View (Dave) – had significantly reduced programming, offering much virtually; education programming was perhaps the most reduced; recreational programming for kids was cancelled; swimming lessons were on initially, but were cancelled because of COVID-infections (which fortunately did not spread); most of arts programming cancelled; did have the Spectrum Grass perform in Hall Auditorium with seating for 50 only, with everyone in masks; virtual vespers and religious programming (which was outside and people could attend); they've learned you can see stuff later by recording and broadcasting on YouTube; did not have people from far away, but more local folks offering; not sure of summer attendance there; multi-generation parties at homes were observed (that's Bay View to Dave); gearing up for 150th celebration in 2025 the third week in July (we should be gathering there then); have a major waterfront project \$3 million in cost; need to secure funding for more virtual programming – wondered how that impacts attendance (does it reduce it?) Noted his pleasure in being able to be in his “piece of paradise” this summer, but it's been a different kind of year.

Mt. Gretna (Kathy) – the Arts Council didn't even publish their calendar this year, so a meeting was held from programming groups across the community and agreed that publishing This Week in Mt. Gretna was essential for the support of local businesses, as well as those activities which were being conducted. The CHQ had public restrooms and the children's playground locked for the season. Gretna Theatre cancelled their whole season, but attempted a drive-in movie one evening (which ended up not working too well because our topography didn't work with with the AM radio broadcasting); Gretna Music postponed their season until next year, but had two programs at the local nature center the past two weeks (one inside and one outside; the Playhouse Operating Committee did not permit use of the playhouse for the season). The MG School of Art offered their lectures virtually. CHQ offered some virtual programming: Lebanon Valley College Book Reviews on Tuesdays, Yoga on Wednesdays, Art lectures on Wednesdays, some Religious Discussion programs on Thursdays and a few special Friday evening programs. Our annual meeting was also conducted on Zoom last Sunday. Of course the Jigger Shop (ICE CREAM) is open for deck

dining and takeout service Weds-Sundays from 12-8pm, which is bringing most of the visitors to Gretna.

Said bye to Betsy

Canada (Mary Lou) – started Chautauqua Canada to enlighten others about CHQ not just in Canada, but everywhere; Mary Lou did three years of research of Chautauqua in Canada, and is working on a book on Chautauqua Today, because the world doesn't need another history book. The best place to start is with the children, because they most need a basic introduction to the four pillars and the notion of CHQ. Her first book is for 5-10 year olds, and they have a publisher and artist secured. They moved to St. Catherines from near Muskoka a few years ago. She's observed their children interacting, dealing with isolation balancing their digital world and family relationships. So, showing the human values of Chautauqua will be the primary focus, conveying that Chautauqua is for everyone. Children and the elderly have connected with CHQ because the grands have learned about CHQ from their elders. When the pandemic is done is when the need for CHQ will be huge – and she's excited about that.

Frank suggested that we talk about permanent changes to our programs next year, as who knows what's really coming. Frank moved our agenda forward.

Kevin Sibbring couldn't stay on the call long enough to talk with us. He did indicate he would step down due to new employment obligations. Frank opened the floor to officer nominations:

Kirk moved for Frank as President; seconded by Randy. The motion carried. Frank noted the only nay last year was his wife.

Bill C nominated Mary Lou as VP; Nancy Brucken seconded that motion. The motion carried.

Deb nominated Kathy for secretary; seconded Kirk. The motion carried, with one abstention (Kathy).

Kirk nominated Deb for Treasurer; seconded by Gayle. The motion carried. Frank thanked her for getting our house in order again.

Also thanked Kathy, for her service.

Mark issued his official invitation to Wawasee in 2021, October 7-10; it's the largest natural lake in Indiana. You'll see the whole lake on a narrated cruise. Will request five slides from each Chautauqua, so we've got a product to offer. There are a number of cottages there available for home stays; there is also Oakwood Resort Hotel available. Everyone loves this park and they'll have a good program to share with us.

Frank pointed out annual meeting years as follows:

2021 Wawasee

22 Mt. Gretna

23 Lakeside

24 Ocean Park

25 Bay View

Nancy indicated that Lakeside has a new President, and we'll need to "educate" him about the Trail in the meantime – Daniel Rogers. He knows about other Chautauquas, but not about the Trail - yet!!

Motion to adjourn at 12:10pm from Randy; Mark seconded. The motion carried.

Kath