Annual APCUG Meeting
Held Online via Zoom
November 7, 2020

Ray Baxter called the meeting to order.

It was moved and seconded to skip the reading of last year's minutes as they are online. Ray Baxter read a memorial for President David Williams, who died in July. $1,000 for a scholarship has been donated to a junior college in Des Moines in his name. To meet the changes caused by COVID-19, APCUG Zoom resources and the Speakers Bureau have helped many clubs stay alive and even prosper. Membership dues are down over $1,000 this year over 2019. The Florida in-person conference was a large expense, and Zoom expenses have grown. But there have been no advisor or officer travel expenses.

As reported by Lee Laughner, Membership Chair, there 136 active user groups. Some groups have merged, and some have disbanded. But several new groups have joined APCUG. Details are available on the APCUG website.

Judy Taylour reported that the Benefits Committee develops membership benefits. They vet suggestions to be sure they will be used.

The PUSH Committee sends out articles for groups who still have newsletters.

Judy is always looking for speakers for VTC conferences. Please volunteer. The dates for the 2021 VTCs are on the website. 36 groups are making their meetings open to members of other groups. For details of how each wants you to join, please see the website.

The COVID-19 Team has conducted leadership and group Zoom training and has coordinated four 2-hour session workshops: *Getting to Know Windows from An Insiders Point of View* with Bill James (8 hours); Bill James' *Home Automation for Seniors* (8 hours); *Password Management with Bitwarden* with Kenneth Tubaugh (6 hours); and *Learning Linux* with John Kennedy, Orv Beach, and Sharan Kalwani (8 hours). There have been over 1000 registrants with 1250 people watching the online videos.

Membership renewal starts December 1 and is due by December 31. Groups not renewing by the end of January become inactive.

Ray Baxter spoke about the Grants committee that helps user groups fund programs that help their members better understand computers.

Regional Advisors reported on activities in their regions. Exceptional accomplishments were noted. Zoom has enabled many groups to survive and even grow their membership.

David Steward reported for the Bylaws Committee. They are looking at bringing things up to date.

Frances Chao reported on APCUG's online services. A hosted website is included in the $50 annual dues; 15 groups are using this benefit.

John Kennedy discussed the 2021 advisor election. No nominations were received from the groups and he thanked the groups that voted. Ray Baxter, Lee Laughner, Mike Smith, and Bill James will continue in their respective positions.

Bill James reported on the contests: Digital Photo, eBulletin, Newsletter, and Website.

Judy Taylour reported that the 2020 Volunteer of the Year: is Leah Clark of the Los Angeles Computer Society.

The meeting was adjourned by Ray Baxter who then opened the meeting for general discussion.

Judy reported that MicroCenter and Best Buy both are reported to help groups with presentations.

Bit.ly addresses are not accepted by some providers. A discussion of alternates ensued.

Some groups reported having problems getting their members to participate with Zoom. One-on-one support in getting used to Zoom was suggested. If users originally followed security suggestions, there would not have been any security problems or Zoom bombing.

The difference between Zoom Meetings and Webinars was clarified. Managing questions in Chat helps reduce interruptions during presentations.

A general discussion of APCUG contact with user groups clarified how user groups should keep their information current in the UGLS (membership database).

The biggest genealogy conference, RootsTech, will be free to all registrants at the upcoming session in February 2021.

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