

DRML Fundraising Committee

“Sip & Spell” Meeting, Wed. Dec. 6, 2017

Present: Mary Jane Dickerson, Sue Vaughn, Holly Hall, Robert Cochran and Connie Gallagher.

Next Meeting: Wed. Jan. 10, 2018, 1pm at the library

I had been thinking a lot about our plans to hold the “Sip & Spell” event in February 2017. I re-read the article on the Corvallis Bee carefully and recommended that we postpone this for another year in order to do a thorough job. In the meantime I thought we should work on getting as much in place as possible and spend time preparing the community in order to draw them in and use their talents to create a successful event. The committee agreed, but we all thought that we should do a “dress rehearsal” with the library staff and the board just to see how this would flow.

Bob, Mary Jane and Sue are working on the lists of words, sentences and pronunciations. We should have at least three levels of word: easy, difficult and more difficult. At least some of the words will have relevance to contemporary events, social media and perhaps localisms or popular slang.

Mary Jane will copy the rules used by Corvallis in their event for our review. Holly and I, with the committee’s input, can probably write a set of rules for our event. cbcpubliclibrary.net/pdf/OfficialRules2016.pdf

We talked a lot about ways to involve the communities of Jericho and Underhill. We need to have “partners” such as “The Mountain Gazette,” MMU and perhaps the local churches to publicize the 2019 event. As partners, we would like to see these groups and perhaps others, really sell the event to the public. We might think of involving a local TV or Radio person.

We talked about the potential contestants and agreed that it would be more fun to have teams rather than just individuals, and we explored the possible make-up of these. An example would be to have 4 members of a family varying in age from

high school to grandparent OR any four persons could make up a team. Some of the rounds could be focused on one individual from each group and others as group efforts. As in the Corvallis Bee, we would like to have “mulligans” or opportunities to ask for help from friend outside, etc.—all for a fee.

We would need to come up with prizes for the winners and losers? There could be some fun in this. We would need a scorekeeper and a timekeeper (see rules).

Holly recommended that I speak with Joyce Babbitt at Brown’s River for ideas since she does spelling bees’ at the school. I will. Sue recommended that we speak with individual teachers at the high school for ideas and to help spread the word.

FOOD: Sue has received good news from JCAT regarding finger food. We didn’t get into food or wine very much today. We did think that the food should be savory rather than sweet.

FUNDRAISING: There would be a price to attend, and we would aggressively sell tickets in advance so there would be no surprise on the night of the event. Contestants/groups would pay an additional fee. We would pick up extra money from the “mulligan” fees.

DRESS REHERSAL: We thought we would run a “mock” event with the board and library staff and some friends as a test. We decided to use the original date of Friday Feb. 9, 2017 for this. **We’ll explore this more at our next meeting at 1pm on January 10, 2018.**

The new date for the real event will be February 17, 2019.

Connell Gallagher
December 6, 2017