

## Chautauqua Trail Meeting July 27 – 30, 2018 in Ocean Park, Maine

### Attending:

Bay View: David Antonioni  
Boulder: Shelly Benford  
Chautauqua: Vanessa Weinert  
Lakeside: Nancy Brucken, Joe and Barb Caner, Nancy and Bill Carlson, Bob Brucken, Betsy Brucken  
Monteagle: Greg and Pam Maloof  
Mt. Gretna: Jack and Jane Anderson, Cliff and Kathy Snavely (*did not arrive until late evening 7/27*)  
Ocean Park: Pam Savage, David Keene, Ted and Kathy Wade, Frank and Helen Gwalthney, Lynne Yeamans, Jerry Gosselin, Alex Sinclair  
Wawasee: Tammy Cotton, Brittney Dudeck

### **Minutes, July 27, 2018** (*taken by Alex Sinclair, as the secretary's arrival was delayed*)

#### Housekeeping Announcements:

The Curtis at 6:45pm tonight  
Tomorrow at 6:30-7pm Wade Cottage, Lobster dinner  
Sunday Lunch at Duffy's 12:30-2

Welcome by Jerry Gosselin, Executive Director for Ocean Park - Thank you & Welcome  
David Keene, President, Ocean Park Association - Thank you & Welcome

*The Chautauqua Trail is a group of organizations and individuals committed to the communication and implementation of the chautauqua concept of building community by supporting all persons in the development of their full potential intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically. The Chautauqua Trail facilitates interaction and communication among its members to further their preservation, growth and development.*

Joe moved to accept the minutes from the 2017 Annual Meeting (Muskoka Falls), seconded by Pam; the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Vanessa reported that we have accrued \$700 from organizational dues as of July 13 and 17 individuals who have paid \$10 dues, totaling \$170. In addition, there is a \$609 balance from 2017. Total balance \$1,479.

When Chautauquas pay dues, they do not get receipts; should we consider using Paypal? Discussion ensued, noting that dues usually come around February newsletter. Could consider a ticketing system.

### **Chautauqua Reports**

**Mt. Gretna (PA)** - Jane and Jack Anderson; Cliff and Kathy Snavely's arrival has been delayed due to their car breaking down in Massachusetts. Jack indicated they were founded in 1892 and now have about 207 households. Summer programs run from Memorial Day through Labor Day, based on the four pillars of arts/culture, recreation, religion and education. Other community organizations produce live theatre, jazz & classical music, rock shows; Tabernacle has other concerts produced by Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Association. Art show in August has 300+ artists to exhibit.

*Issue* - 18 acres in process of being purchased by the Chautauqua (Soldier's Field), part of PA National Guard encampment. Last Thursday, stockholders voted to save/purchase "Soldier's Field." One of the

uses of the property is for extra parking for the art show instead of renting it at \$14,000/year for two days. To support programs, they have the Stewart Society memberships for the season at \$40, in addition to encouraging \$5 per program donations.

**Chautauqua** (NY): Vanessa reported they're in week five of their season; *Ethics of Dissent* is the theme of the season. Patriotism and Activism in America is this week's theme. A strategic planning consultant has been hired, and they're working on a grand positioning study, collecting marketing and analytics data:

- where are we, where do we need to be?
- diversity/inclusive perspective from religion, race, economics, etc.
- how to be more accessible regionally

They're an enclave of wealth surrounded by poverty, committed to turning gates into gateways. Their Director of Arts and Education goes into schools in the area. There's a lot of new executive leadership. Attempting to become nimble for marketing demands of the youth as opposed to traditional youth camp experiences.

Attendance is a little down from last year, which was a big year because of new amphitheater. Yo-Yo Ma is coming week eight, and Ken Burns week nine. Customer service strategy, from food to lodging to ushers, main gate, etc. helps retention rates. Varying amounts for tickets. Lectures are livestreamed, and tweet questions for Q&A afterward. Hired multimedia producer to market year-round. Have schools of Art, Theater, Voice, Music - professional companies with students on full scholarships.

**Lakeside** (OH) is a gated community on the south shore of Lake Erie (one of three that still has a gate). Lake Erie is the shallowest Great Lake, and they're on the most shallow part. Algae is a problem because of agricultural runoff. Built a large swimming pool as alternative to the lake. Orchestra comes for four weeks every year. Conductor for 43 years retired last year: four different guest conductors are auditioning this year. Completed a master plan extension of strategic plan and raising money to move it along. Introduced a teen center for gathering, with programs to facilitate hanging out (using stage, ping pong, and comfortable chairs) for those between the ages of 14-18. A new list of community leaders has been added in the back of the auditorium.

Lake is eroding: western edge needs to be restored and reclaimed. Roads and storm water issues to be addressed in the millions of dollars, plus nine miles of roads. New roads put in a few years ago hooked into the town sewer, but now there is no drainage because the roads are too high. They have 1000 homes within the gates.

**Wawasee** (Syracuse, IN) has three staff members now. Founded in 2011; Anne Strong is an honorary life member of the board. Their programs reside in Oakwood Resort, who allows them to use an office for free in the event center. Oakwood was once owned by Methodist Church. There is a hotel and 300 cottages. A doctor bought it and fixed it up. They noted a hotel does programs and events with Waxahachie. Often have three weddings each weekend throughout the summer. Schedule has grown too much, scaling it back next year. Jazz festival being attempted in September. Art festival every year is the solid event, with 30 artists.

**Monteagle** (TN): Greg reported it's their 136<sup>th</sup> season. Theirs is the oldest operating in-ground pool in Tennessee - now on town water instead of spring. Art, Bible, Bridge, a different theme each week from Father's Day to first week in August. Six to eight families live there year-round. The "assembly dogs" need to be in by 7pm. 14 mph speed limit. Promote the use of golf-carts. 160 cottages leased by the Assembly.

6 miles from Sewanee University, which richly contributes writers, conferences, orchestra, etc. 99% of programs, which are free to the community. Gate revenue from tickets; have 242 members. Monteagle is generally degrees cooler than valley surrounding it, also noting they're on Central Time – and have NO mosquitos!

**Bay View** (Petosky, MI): Not gated. Founded 1886, their member fee is \$300, with 800 members, 440 cottages, 28 buildings. Campus in lieu of village with an eight week season. Oldest music festival in the country. Programs offered include opera, strings, a musical, play, kids program. Not declining in kids attendance; in fact, there seems to be a baby boom. Millennials no longer at Rec Hall.

Education program - Yale Constitution lecture in July. Book read - Great Lakes series. Conservative Bible group and Progressive Bible group. Walking community. Recreation programs include tennis, sailing, clubs for kids. Worship ministers from a range of ideologies, like Peter Story, worked with Desmond Tutu. 200 acres. \$3.5 million annual budget, paid for from fees of cottage owners and members. Challenges: Erosion on the beach 15 ft waves- have \$2 million dedicated in projects to address this issue.

**Boulder** (CO): Shelly reported it's their 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Work with the University of Colorado, have 26 of 40 acres of a city park is the Chautauqua, which is a National Historic Landmark. Lodging is 60% of the revenue, with nightly rentals available year-round. Upgrading colleges, promoting events. New hotels are competition. Get through five years until they are full. Private events, weddings, celebration of life, corporate meetings. Starting to hear that private events are not consistent with the mission, which is under discussion. Public events - six weeks of classical music festival, with a new artistic director. Popular concerts interspersed with classical concerts. Resistance to reaching youth. Dining Hall is the exclusive caterer for the events.

Fledgling development activities. Feasibility study within Boulder - fire/flood. Municipality \$10-15 million needed, with \$2-3 million needed for shops, and more for historic properties. Evaluating whether their model is environmentally sustainable and micro-grid. Diversity needed to be eligible for grants. Exploring Native support. With kids' programing, half attending had a full-scholarship. Third grade field trips from around Boulder come for historical experience. Staffing is difficult because of Boulder's cost of living, and they serve a million visitors per year. Non-gated. Private owners from TX with money and 8 generations of summering. Silent film discounts for lodging guests. Have a 6 million dollar operating budget.

**Ocean Park**, (ME): Ocean Park is non-gated, with a membership community 800 members, \$150/year. Community awareness of contribution to wider community. Temple attendance on Sundays is the largest gathering. Shifts in programming: self-care, exercise programs are taking off in a positive way. Trying consistent programming in arts. Improv classes for kids - all 50 attendees performed at the conclusion. They have two rental buildings, commercial buildings, event spaces. Ocean Park Realty - 70 rental properties and sales. Challenges: FEMA Flood maps will change, forcing people to buy flood insurance, or put cottages on stilts; Old Orchard Beach (under which they are incorporated) has height restrictions. Cathedral pines has conservation easements that prevent them from doing anything to take care of it. Ocean Park Conservation Society holds the easement.

---

CHAUTAUQUA TRAIL **By-Laws** are needed to become 501c3 and join National Registry. Discussion regarding section

3D1.2 Assessment of Dues will be determined by individual and institutional members by a vote of all members at the Annual Trail Meeting. Dues should be paid by March 1<sup>st</sup> for both individuals and institutions. No such thing as Life Members. Motion to approve as amended by Joe, seconded by Greg; the motion carried.

Ideas from Frank:

- Passport for Chautauquas
- National Landmarks in Chautauquas

DISCUSSION of what significance dues have: not much

DISCUSSION of impact of new Federal Income Tax law:

- INCREASE IN STANDARD DEDUCTION
- No impact yet. May impact 1,000 donors, not million dollar donors
- Will people shift the pattern by doubling every other year?
- Will people put money in a donor-advised fund?
- PROPOSED CHANGES IN OVERTIME WAGE/ HOUR
  - Suspended, may increase number of donors, but decrease amount per donor
  - Will know more next year

DISCUSSION: INCLUSION/ EXCLUSION

Free will Baptists founded Ocean Park... Liberal in their day.  
1855 - Bates College - Oren Cheney founded it and Ocean Park Association (OPA)  
Bates College was open to anyone regardless of race, gender and social status.  
OPA now has a mission statement with ideals of Christianity to accept everyone.

Inclusion vs Exclusion:

Lakeside land owned by Methodist Church, more variety of people now. Logo - Everybody is Welcome, with all white kids in poster. Inclusive group of white Christians. In theory open to everyone, but in practice, it's white wealthy people. Enormous amounts of outreach. Black ballet troupe comes to perform for white audience. Inclusion is core to the mission of interfaith community. Audience does not reflect the region or programs. How to use privilege to help with social justice. How do we fully integrate people into what we do? Sever affiliations with discriminating organizations?

How do we have muscular civil dialogue? Training Chautauquas with true dialogue. 3,000 in winter , 20,000 in summer. A lot of poor and a lot of wealthy in local community: nobody in the middle; their mission and purpose reach both populations. Looking for programming for everybody. Not church-affiliated in any way, not gated. Town-owned property that used to be owned by the Methodist church. Area is all white - hotel brings in Jamaican workers.

Ocean Park Association is diverse in programs and speakers. Community could use help to be accepting of differences. What are the true roots of the Chautauqua movement? Open-mindedness that does not go with the time. Cliques within the white Christian community. Critical to move toward inclusiveness for survival. First Nation people should get on staff. Middle class is disappearing-reading circle. Listening sessions are great. Invite people from away to join reading circle. OPA has made progress- anyone can buy or rent here. Diverse programming. Pastor last week talked about racism.

Adjourned for the day. Jerry Gosselin introduced Celene Ibrahim.

## **Saturday, July 28**

Frank opened the meeting at 9:05am, with greetings to Kathy & Cliff who finally arrived, thanks to the “Kenney Express;” he thanked Alex for taking minutes yesterday, and congratulated Bob Brucken for his performance in last evening’s 5K.

Frank read the Mission Statement once again, then announced that Mr. Jones, from Georgia (he’s a retired engineer) has offered to any Chautauqua a complete set of complete CS Lewis’ books if they do a program on CS Lewis.

**Discussion continuing from yesterday: Are the Chautauquas inclusive or exclusive?** Frank’s summary of yesterday’s discussion is that we try to be inclusive, but we may inadvertently do things that make us look exclusive.

Greg (Monteagle) – the fact that Chautauquas were started by white males probably explains enough. Are we talking about programs or membership? As Monteagle is rural with a population of about 1,200, most know nothing about Chautauqua – and some people aren’t going to be interested. Who really wants to be a member? Maybe we should discuss that.

Pam (Monteagle) – they do have a gay couple living there, Asians on staff, gate tickets may make them exclusive to some degree. We can’t control who people like and don’t like.

Helen (Ocean Park) likes to think that OP is very inclusive. However, if five turbaned men walked down the street, word would get around.

Lynn (OP) – we make an effort to be inclusive, but it doesn’t always happen.

Jerry (OP) – It was alluded to yesterday within Bay View’s Report yesterday, that we have conservative people who are tied to our history and newer people who would love to include everyone and open up the gates. Perhaps some of the founders would be rolling over in their grave that a non-Christian was speaking here. We’ve developed over the years. Some day he hopes someone like Celine would be welcomed in their pulpit. In suggesting that, he is sure there would be some unsettling; the people whose feathers will be ruffled will always be there. He never hears back negatives on LGBT programs, rights, practices – perhaps that means we’re inclusive. It’s always a work in progress and depends on the circumstances. If it can’t happen in a CHQ, where would it happen??

Frank (OP) – charter from the Free Will Baptists made it open in 1855 and that’s their foundation. Today, it would probably also include embracing those of all religions. Too often we get locked into the words of 1850; we need to show leadership and demonstrate showing the way.

Alex (OP) – context is important

Betsy (Lakeside) – been coming to Lakeside all her life, seeing more diversity there but there’s certainly a way to go. The costs of the gate fees and rentals probably does present some barriers.

Bob (Lakeside) – have a commitment to diversity, because our ultimate control rests with the UM church and they embrace diversity. We’ve been told that we don’t have a “critical number” of African Americans

there. The church conferences require affirmative action. We advertise for people to come, and then they come. We invite black ministers to become part of the platform; we want them to go home and tell their members about Lakeside and have their people come. In off seasons, they invite black churches in the area to come and use Lakeside for conferences and retreats. It hasn't achieved their goal, but they've made some headway. Have quite a few Asians already. We have diversity of home owners.

Bill (Lakeside) – Thinks their real challenge is in economic disparity, they're a sea in surroundings of some degree of poverty. A biggest challenge of the future....

Nancy (Lakeside) – What attracts people to a Chautauqua (CHQ) now? For her, it was a tradition/church. Now there is an element of safety and security, because they're gated – and people don't lock their doors there. But that will need to be addressed.

Kathy (Mt. Gretna) – Likely has a larger percentage of gay folks living in their midst, but they're all white. Very few African Americans in the area and the large population of Latinos in Lebanon and Lancaster County residents may come to swim at the Lake, but that's it for the most part. Not gated, most programs by donations so anyone can come.

Jane (Mt. Gretna) – They have had African American speakers (example: guest and her driver spent the night in MG and commented how welcome she felt). Jack added that our community is in a rural area, mostly populated by white people. However, Lebanon is nearby and their Latino population is rapidly increasing. We had a program on that a few years ago. When the Mt. Gretna School of Art (MGSoA) was formed, based on the NY model, it attracted 25 students from all over the US; they typically have Asian and African Americans in attendance. We need to be more intentional about what we're doing. It would be more helpful to get a better well-rounded experience on cultures across America. He doesn't understand how different ethnic groups use their leisure time. He knows African Americans do a lot of church experiences, but doesn't know much about their vacation experiences – what are they looking for? We need to do a little more research on that. As far as the Latinos go, we need to get familiar with that too.

Cliff (Mt. Gretna) mentioned that in his SDA church, they have nine different nationalities represented. Their current preacher is from Haiti.

Greg (Monteagle) hears that we have our unique features. They don't have the facilities to take in groups in the off season because cottages aren't winterized.

Joe (Lakeside) noted that just the fact that they're gated connotes inclusivity. But you can go less than 100 yards from their gates to find people who think you have to be a property owner or United Methodist to get in the gates. Perhaps they need to advertise that that's not who we are.

Dave (Bay View) – even across the bay in Harbor View, they believe because they're gated, they're inclusive. How many Chautauquans does it take to change a light bulb, as Frank would ask. “CHANGE?????” they respond.

Ted (Ocean Park) – God bless us all, even the summer people, is on a napkin on a bulletin board in Monteagle.

Greg (Monteagle) – a four hour, free gate pass is available.

Vanessa (Chautauqua) – whenever you talk about inclusivity/exclusivity, people sometimes refer to it in the context of crime. It can make us sound like we can lose our essence rather than increase our vibrancy.

Frank (Ocean Park) – Kevin said a couple of years ago that each of our Chautauquas are surrounded by those of lesser affluence and we may need to reach out to those people. Greg reported that Monteaule collects money for scholarships in their school district (Outreach Sunday), food bank, etc. Regarding blacks' vacation preferences, Boulder included some of that in their report there: family reunions are many's vacation. Asians/Latinos are thirsting for a place to go to learn about things, as he recalls. Perhaps we need to get an update from the Dept. of Tourism next year. 30-40 years ago, Chautauquas were perceived as people with disabilities. New York still has free Sundays, Wednesdays are free for students and school district employees, Community College has summer classes for credit there; they also welcome any school group to their grounds. Have a new VP of education, who has started a young writer's institute; they stay with host families for the week and have the opportunity to take classes. Week-long vacation scholarships are made available to people in CHQ County. With 100 year round staff members, the institution is NOT separate from the community/staff. They are very engaged in their community, so they work to dispel the myths whenever we have an opportunity to do so.

Nancy (Lakeside) noted the Chautauqua Trail is in a unique position to gather data to get beyond anecdotal information. Vanessa said they do a lot of research, so they have lots of data. They also do research on local major urban markets. Kathy S. reminded the group that Vanessa and Richard (from Missouri) offered to do research like this when we met in Monteaule. Richard hasn't been communicative with us since that time. How we do that and what info we ask needs to be determined. Vanessa suggested scheduling a webinar so she can talk through their processes, perhaps in the fall or spring. Frank said he'll work with Vanessa to make that happen. Nancy B. asked if there's been follow-up to first timers to get info on their visits; Vanessa said yes, but they're starting to see a decline in single ticket sales. They used to sell 50G, and now down to 15G. Increased competition in their markets is largely responsible. Expecting to hit a larger goal of single tickets this year, as they've made a concerted effort to do so. Everything is done with a strategic purpose, as these passes impact the hotels, restaurants, etc. It's CHANGE!! Pam asked if price impacts one day tickets; of course, she replied. While costs are going up, the quality of programming is not. Most venues make their money on concessions, not ticket sales. Week Nine is a festival now, so they do permit open containers. Families are gone by week nine and they had to adapt; expecting their largest audience this year, because the format is attractive to a different group of people.

Bob (Lakeside) – we all claim to be regional, not local, so there's always going to be friction with the county. They pull a good number of people from the Penn State region. The key is REGIONAL market.

Brittany (Wawasee) – now that Oakwood is private and there are alcohol sales, they can include wineries, etc. as they were not able to do before now.

Frank summarized that we're all striving for inclusivity. Vanessa knows that friends and family are what make Chautauquas and it's incumbent for those friends and families to be more inclusive. Kathy S. mentioned that perhaps we need to expand our mission statement to include inclusivity and she'd be the first to volunteer for help. Frank said he'd do it too.

### **SUBJECT: Internships**

Kathy (Mt. Gretna) – has had an intern for the past nine years or so, thanks to Lakeside's suggestion; happy to supply the job description to anyone. Intern runs the visitor center, as they could not find enough volunteers to have anything close to consistent hours. With 150,000 people visiting in the summer months, need to have regular hours to tell people where the bathrooms are, at the very least. Kathy works

with the summer programs committee to hire, then she spends the first 1-2 weeks with the intern and supervises him/her for the balance of the summer. Would be very hard to do what we do without an intern at this point.

Greg (Monteagle) – no interns, but employees

Shelley (Boulder) – get two from University of Colorado, used for marketing, development and finance. Very, very helpful and one intern reported their experience helped get him the job of his dreams. One is working on their membership program right now; they work 10 hours a week for a full calendar year. They are not paid.

Kathy (OP) – course credit and not paid is often the model. Must pay according to wage and employment laws definition of internship.

Nancy (Lakeside) – has about 15; they do everything from counting/documenting trees. Often come back as full-time employees, a testament to the success of that program.

David (Bay View) – has an interim minister program that's been very successful; looking at arts/admin program.

Vanessa (Chautauqua) – state and fed guidelines have cut back on their internship programs and more are paid employees. Have 15-20 interns working on the Chautauquan Daily. All interns are paid.

Bob (Lakeside) – developed problems finding college students as employees, so call them interns. They don't really care what they're being paid; they're in it for the experience.

Kathy (Mt. Gretna) – Mentioned at attorney on their board will not allow the intern to work more than 40 hours in any week to enable flex time (although she is aware of other internships that use flex time). In Massachusetts, can make up time within the two week pay period, Kathy Wade reported. Nancy (Lakeside) stated that the jobs interns are taking are more skilled in nature, so there is a difference in what the interns are doing vs. summer jobs.

### **SUCCESSFUL New/Old Programs:**

Brittany (Wawasee) – arts fest is picking up speed. Tammy stated that the new things for them are kids programs, other than programs in the schools; have been successful at schools, but not so much when they try to get people to come to them – very disappointing. Timing may have been an issue. Tried a kid's comedy improv workshop, which was also cancelled. They're so new; getting info about them out is still a challenge. New fall events: three day jazz festival and Bobby Bones is coming in October (CMA artist of the year last year; already sold 100 tickets, but are slow). Still in the position of trying new things. Brittany stated there is money in the summer, it's still hard to figure out what people are willing to do/pay for, other than if it's FREE.

Vanessa (Chautauqua) – first you need to define what success is to you; never do a program just once because it's the first one and you don't know how it will go moving forward. They often have a Fourth of July slump, so attempting to combat that – not necessarily revenue generating. Intergenerational Olympics has been popular this year; although it didn't increase ticket sales, but the response was great. Anticipates that the revenue will grow in the future. Had over 500 participate – great for retention and satisfaction. The Food Festival in week nine has been hugely successful, branding themselves as a culinary destination and programming in non-traditional spaces.



Dave (Bay View) – their performing arts programs with faculty from various universities, vocal and instrumental performance students, are wildly successful. Ticket sales seem to be fine, but don't promote externally. Student scholarships dependent on 800 members to write checks. The American Experience Week has gone extremely well – open to the public! Count on donations for things like that. Educational programming is building. Recently renovated a kitchen and are doing cooking classes. Exercise programs well-attended. Many young kids enrolled in children's programming. Their auditorium holds 1,200 people and filling it is sometimes a challenge.

Pam (Ocean Park) – family participation events are most successful, like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and 5K race. Repeating programs at the same time every season, suggested doing it at different times rather than the same time every year, as the folks renting change weekly.

Shelley (Boulder) – Half arts programs will sell out this year; silent film series is great. Community House events in the off season, series on authors, artists, states, documentaries, etc. are well-received. Have access to many athletes coming to the area, which attracts unique programs/attendees. If you have something unique in your town, incorporate that into programming – people love hearing more about local talk. Starting a new history talk series, the dark side of Chautauqua, for example. Cooking at Chautauqua talk, a series of past speakers at CHQ. TedX and Ignite talks have been great. Doing a new film festival at the auditorium with an education component, taking it into the high schools. Still stymied why people in Boulder don't know about the CHQ, so going out into the community to spread their message is a promising strategy.

Joe (Lakeside) – Kids Setting Sail, Sunday afternoon sailing for a 15 minute ride on a Sunfish for 5-12 year olds (although has expanded ages), is popular. Barb added that there's so much for young people to do, and passed the torch to Nancy Brucken. She's surprised that this activity hasn't bolstered more kids getting accreditation to sail themselves and getting new families involved. It's a free program, but there are minimal charges for sailing instruction. Plenty of boats available for use.

Nancy C (Lakeside) – Wednesday nights are generally kids programs – changed the time to 7:30 from 8:15. Monday night movies, silent films with live accompaniment is a real attraction. Bill C added that a few years ago, they didn't have theme weeks towards the end of the summer, so they've gotten better attendance with speakers. Bob B said the new pool has been a bit hit, as well as pickleball. They're building 8 new pickleball courts. Attendance is up the past few years, more people coming with 4 day tickets rather than a week – but that's turned this year, which they hope will continue. Betsy has noticed that there are far more family activities during the day, which hopefully causes families to stay more days.

Frank (Ocean Park) – rec hall program is going well. Jerry added that most of their income comes from membership dues, unrestricted memorial funds and their annual drive, as well as commercial rentals. They don't feel a need to develop revenue from programs. There is some stress from music programming, as those are not as well attended and have lost money – they're just happy when they don't lose money. Sunday services are the most popular events of the week, but attendance (and donations) are down. Other signs of new life; starting an improv camp. Some concern that there is only a book sale during two weeks of the season – this year having a rolling book sale to address that issue this year. Trying to be responsive to people. Resiliency, speaking from Celine yesterday, seems to be a hot word. Lynne (OP) is involved with educational programming. Their "Healthy You" programming (women are responding) has grown significantly this year. Getting more evening programming to use their buildings. Tuesday and Thursday evening programs, with participation goals, are growing. Have an affiliated Education Bureau that offers youth programming that is terrific. Oceanwood Camp down the street – probably need to expand the

relationship with them there. Had a new program for folks with disabilities and the response has been great. Alex added that CYC is a youth conference with 50-120 campers involved, shift from white campers to black campers – although still a white staff.

Helen (Ocean Park) – one of the new programs involves the Sunday School has been very positive on Sundays. The leader is given time at the beginning of Sunday Worship Services to call down all kids in K – 6 grades. She offers a kids' lesson and then leads the children to Jordan Hall for Sunday School lessons.

Pam (Monteagle) – yoga classes and water aerobics and water yoga classes are fab. Greg mentioned their Youth Adventure program has been scrapped. Twilight Prayers evening chapel services are enjoying increased attendance. It's been a good year in Monteagle.

Jack (Mt. Gretna) – older program: LVC book reviews; newer things: NY Chautauqua Video Discussion Series, CLSC selection Books & Breakfast; Vanessa mentioned live-streaming from CHQ; University for a Day for \$50 (warm blueberry buckle straight from the oven from Kathy to open the day, 4 college level classes, a catered lunch and a wine and cheese tasting). Mt. Gretna Supper Club started 3 years ago; \$25 per person, BYOB with light musical entertainment after supper. Children's and Family programming has spun off on Tuesday evenings. Continuing issues: residents who don't support programming. Jane continued how they've brought some of the speakers from their retirement community to Mt. Gretna.

Kathy (Ocean Park) – has been on their board for three weeks. She's observed that they schedule the same type of programming at the same time every year; need to change things up! The most critical opportunity is promotion. Need to get the word out on all the things going on, through social media, for example. Renters are usually here Sat-Sat, and perhaps they need to offer programming for their first night here, like a renters' reception to talk about their week's offering. Ted added that OP is different from many other CHQs because they're part of a larger open community. There's a shifting balance between people staying for the whole season vs. weekly rentals. While programs aren't designed to drive revenues, the challenge is there is parking – which creates some tensions.

Dave (Ocean Park) – Thinks the sign should say "Ocean NoPark," perhaps. Several campgrounds nearby compounds that. Beach is the biggest asset, but those folks may not be interested in programming. Tomorrow at the Temple, Sunday morning attendance will be up with our group here and Tony Campolo speaking. Attendance is usually 300-350, which is disturbing. Need to consider different forms of worship. Vanessa asked since people are interested in the beach, why not have ecology programming on the beach – which is happening, Dave explained. Greg mentioned the shuttles on larger campuses held with attendance. They have a relationship with University of the South to enhance their programming.

Nancy (Lakeside) – University Week includes Bill Carlson as a speaker; he's doing a program on 8/28 on Eight from the State, eight Presidents from Ohio.

Frank (Ocean Park) added that a co-ed, 1866, Stewart College was formed, including both sexes and two races (although it's likely both races weren't seated together at first).

Vanessa (Chautauqua) said they do a visitor reception that includes a video, etc. with refreshments. Promote programs at the table near the downtown area to make info readily successful. Also have an orientation that works very well.

Frank (Ocean Park) introduced Jerry to talk about a new offering: Mystery Skype with Judy, Jerry's wife who is an elementary school student set up a program with the librarian here – like a Where is Waldo

program of sorts. They'd like to have the other CHQs be mystery guests. Kids are really excited about solving the mystery!

Bob B (Lakeside) – Wednesday afternoon, have a history of the CHQ movement presentation every week run by volunteers and a staff member. Ends with the development of Lakeside; he noted that they should add the other Chautauquas.

Vanessa mentioned that timing is going to impact their participation in the Ocean Park program. They've partnered with the county library system, where you can check out a day pass for a performance or class.

Frank suggested that we conquer two more topics before lunch. Topics: Muskoka asked for the advantages of joining the CHQ Trail? From Epworth, do smaller member CHQ feel intimidated by the larger CHQs?

### **Intimidation?**

Greg (Monteagle), no, because they're at the bottom of the list with little land, little water...but they're happy as they are. No CHQ bullying that he's aware of. Cliff added that the Last will be first....

Nancy B (Lakeside) – Monteagle is large in comparison with some of our other members. Brittany (Wawasee) doesn't feel intimidated, but this is spurring questions that she wants to ask her board; they're two volunteers that do as much as they possibly can. Frank stated Kirk Hunter and Maureen Moore (Waxahachie) came and may have felt that way – and our group told them to start slow, get your feet under you. Brittany (Wawasee) said they're not sure how they fit into the scheme here – they don't have a 100 year history. Vanessa said they do have a history, they're carrying on a legacy. Loved the idea of the CHQ passport discussed yesterday. Their folks aren't coming to CHQ, they're coming to a program. Dave (Bay View) – was hoping for news from Plains at our meeting this year. Our Canadian friends were hoping for an increase. Frank talked about the Canada CHQ, and the number of CHQs there. Noted their CHQ in Saskatchewan depends on satellite communications, due to their remote location. Greg noted "Miss Rosalyn" asked us how to restart their CHQ; they don't have property, nor does DeFuniak Springs or Halifax or Muskoka. Brittany said that Oakwood Resorts isn't really a full partner and isn't helpful in answering questions about programming. It's a service to their guests, so they don't get what the issue is. They are meeting with the hotel when they get back. Frank would be happy to speak with them, if that would be helpful. Linking their website to the trail site and utilizing it.

Nancy C (Lakeside) noted that wandering one day Chautauquas may add some confusion to who we are. There is no trademark to CHQ. Bob B mentioned they have rebranded themselves as the Lakeside Chautauqua, so people know that they're public and be more inclusive. If enough people use it enough times, we'll have been public education. Tent CHQs were an outreach program, in history and those in current times. Frank elucidated on the Redpath CHQ a bit. Frank said he's never felt that anyone has been intimidated in his years of association.

### **BENEFITS OF CHAUTAUQUA TRAIL MEMBERSHIP:**

Pam talked about the exchange of ideas, like the Harmony Bells from Epworth, now being used in Monteagle. Nothing like getting together.

Co-Marketing help/ideas, Nancy B. added. Bill C. said tracking how many people go from one CHQ to another.

Frank said as an educator, we borrow ideas from each other all the time. Great benefit! Jack added that each of us should invite others from our home Chautauquas to attend the meetings.

### **Roundtable Discussion with Celine:**

Using meditative qualities can help center us and bring angels among us – it’s like plugging into a divine energy source. How are other Chautauquas bringing this theme to their seasons, Celine asked?

Jack and Jane talked briefly about the Mindfulness Series (9 sessions) running on Monday mornings in Mt. Gretna, with the same facilitator each time.

Celine talked about how you can have meditations with no religious connotation, if you wish. Vanessa talked about their new Vice President of Religion at the NY Chautauqua; their 2pm Interfaith lecture series at the Hall of Philosophy is now four days instead of five, and on Fridays, it’s Interfaith Dialogue Day. (This is one of the programs that is live-streamed.) They have many denominational houses on the grounds there; they are getting a bit of push back about having a Muslim denominational house. Lakeside has guest speakers from other faiths, in attempt to be outreaching and “praise well with others,” Bill C. reported. Celine asked about the local communities and are their other faith communities from which to draw. Jack and Kathy noted that during Mt. Gretna’s Chautauqua University for a Day, they had a brother from the closest Muslim temple talk about his faith, with a moderator. Even with that protection/guidance from a moderator, someone still felt he was proselytizing.

One of our guests at the meeting is a chaplain with FEMA and talked out their outreach program, and how they secure chaplains. Her experience is that Evangelical Christians (of which she is one) seem to cause the most issues. She discussed their training, which reinforces their role as a listener, primarily. Celine feels one of the most fruitful practices is taking others to religious sites. The experiential element is most productive. Be prepared for things to go awry.

Question of examples regarding Muslims and other denominations getting together and working on a project together. Celine talked about groups in Boston working on housing, prison issues and others; it’s great because these causes recognize the shared values of these faith groups. Clergy councils are particularly helpful in addressing the dynamics of these issues. She discussed a camp her daughter is attending soon that is an intentional Christian/Jewish/Muslim camp, to build understanding among the faith communities among youth. Dave (Bay View) talked about a series they have about science and religion. Celine illuminated the benefits of aspects of our faith and talking about the benefits of being in community with those who don’t share their faith background. Vanessa talked about the importance of the youth education component. Celine noted what great questions the teens often have, which is sometimes discouraged. She suggested using objects in their conversations, to satisfy their need for hands-on, but it also nourishes and curious impulse in kids.

Bob B. noted that the religious pillar is not just about worship, but also the study of religions. Nancy C. finds that interacting one-on-one can be much more impactful than a lecture or a project. Celine discussed a structured storyteller and listener experience, a beautiful exercise to warm-up a room. Jennifer Howe Peace outlines this 3-2-1 technique. She offered to email the article regarding it to anyone interested. Muslims are taught not to yield to despair and invest in hope. She also discussed prayers that Muslims use to address specific issues. Celine had two volunteers read the supplied poetry and discuss each work. Bob B. asked a question that Celine responded to, indicating that socio-economic stress factors and the decreasing role of religion in American society are impacting our society.

Celine was asked to close the session with another chant (repeated 33 times), and a final one, on truth and reality.

**AFTERNOON SESSION:**

We opened our afternoon session with a PowerPoint on Mt. Gretna from Kathy Snavelly, since she was unable to be here during the course of our five minute reports yesterday.

Election of Officers: Joe Caner moved to re-elect our current officers; motioned seconded by multiple people. And the motion carried to re-elect:

Frank Gwalthney – President, Ocean Park  
Kevin Sibbring – Vice President, Lakeside  
Kathy Snavelly – Secretary, Mt. Gretna  
Vanessa Weinert – Treasurer, Chautauqua, NY

2019 – Boulder (in early August)  
2020 – CHQ NY  
2021 Wawasee  
2022 Mt. Gretna?  
2023 Lakeside  
2024 Ocean Grove or ?  
2025 DeFuniak or Bay View  
2026 CHQ NY  
2027 ?  
2030 CHQ NY  
2031 Ocean Park  
2074 CHQ NY  
2076 Lakeside

Motion to adjourn; the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



For Alex Sinclair, Secretary Pro Tempore and Kathy Snavelly, Secretary

Attendees:

Anderson, Jack and Jane	Mt. Gretna	<a href="mailto:jackandjane@msn.com">jackandjane@msn.com</a>
Antonioni, David	Bay View	<a href="mailto:david.antonioni@gmail.com">david.antonioni@gmail.com</a>
Benford, Shelly	Boulder	<a href="mailto:shelly.benford@chautauqua.com">shelly.benford@chautauqua.com</a>
Brucken, Betsy	Lakeside	<a href="mailto:brucken@bellsouth.net">brucken@bellsouth.net</a>
Brucken, Bob	Lakeside	<a href="mailto:rbrucken@bakerlaw.com">rbrucken@bakerlaw.com</a>
Brucken, Nancy	Lakeside	
Caner, Joe and Nancy	Lakeside	<a href="mailto:thecaners@gmail.com">thecaners@gmail.com</a>
Carlson, Bill	Lakeside	<a href="mailto:wrcarlson11@gmail.com">wrcarlson11@gmail.com</a>
Carlson, Nancy	Lakeside	<a href="mailto:njcarlson11@gmail.com">njcarlson11@gmail.com</a>
Cotton, Tammy	Wawasee	<a href="mailto:tcotton@chqw.org">tcotton@chqw.org</a>
Dudeck, Brittney	Wawasee	<a href="mailto:bdudeck@chqw.org">bdudeck@chqw.org</a>
Gosselin, Jerry	Ocean Park	<a href="mailto:jgosselin@oceanpark.org">jgosselin@oceanpark.org</a>
Gwalthney, Frank and Helen	Ocean Park	
Keene, David	Ocean Park	<a href="mailto:hellodavidkeene@gmail.com">hellodavidkeene@gmail.com</a>
Maloof, Greg	Monteagle	<a href="mailto:gpmaloof@hotmail.com">gpmaloof@hotmail.com</a>
Maloof, Pam	Monteagle	<a href="mailto:pdkm@icloud.com">pdkm@icloud.com</a>
Savage, Pam	Ocean Park	<a href="mailto:pssavage@hotmail.com">pssavage@hotmail.com</a>
Sinclair, Alex	Ocean Park	<a href="mailto:a.sinclair5@icloud.com">a.sinclair5@icloud.com</a>
Snavely, Cliff and Kathy	Mt. Gretna	<a href="mailto:info@lightkeeper.net">info@lightkeeper.net</a>
Yeamans, Lynne	Ocean Park	<a href="mailto:lyeamans1@gmail.com">lyeamans1@gmail.com</a>
Wade, Kathy	Ocean Park	<a href="mailto:kathywade44@gmail.com">kathywade44@gmail.com</a>
Wade, Ted	Ocean Park	<a href="mailto:TedWade461@gmail.com">TedWade461@gmail.com</a>
Weinert, Vanessa	Chautauqua	<a href="mailto:vweinert@chq.org">vweinert@chq.org</a>