U.S. GRAIL REPORT TO GRAIL NATIONAL COUNCIL

Date: 9/26/2023 Report Compiled by: Terrie Puckett

UPDATES: The Grail

- Budget—You received the basic budget via email. The schedule is to approve the basic budget tonight. You will receive the Mission initiative requests to review and then discuss/decide on at the November meeting. You will note from Assumptions tab that for the first time since I became ED, the budget is increased from the current year budget by 2.55% which is still better than the rate of inflation (3.67% in September) which has impacted services like insurance and utilities.
- Southside—By now you have seen that the Clean Ohio Fund has crossed a HUGE hurdle. The NRAC Cte has recommended the project for full funding. The last step is the OPC review it all and then make final decision—estimated no longer than 6 weeks from now.
- Financials—are attached. You will note without the bequest we are over budget—however, the vast majority of that stems from 1) lower than expected member giving (which we hope to make up in 4th quarter) and legal fees (RMM lease, Southside MOU and PA, and Tidings lease). We still anticipate being better than budget at year end.
- External Communications I—we have been cleaning up the database so that we have a robust contact list. So far over 11,000 records have been eliminated. We have kept (in addition to all members, former, current, deceased, etc.) any record active since 1/1/2016. Terry Marshall with Archives has received all the records she wanted for archives, plus we saved a binder of everything deleted as well.
- External Communications II—we will be doing an appeal to non-members (individuals and businesses) to seek financial support. The Grail (Grailville, National, and Cornwall) has done limited appeals in the past, but it has been years since the last major one. We would like to focus on Mission Initiatives (this appeal and grants) as well as building a greenhouse to support the Invasive to Native initiative onsite and across the greater community.
- 80th Birthday—2024 is the 80th birthday of the US Grail. While Grail women were in Chicago from 1940-1944, The Grail did not become an entity until 1944. In 2014 Grailville celebrated a 70th Anniversary year even as we faced closure, culminating in the Light Up The Farm event. For the 80th we would like to use the tag “Celebrating the Past – Building the Future” and, like the int’l Grail a few years ago, we will create an anniversary logo to use all year. This gives us a great reason to push the funding appeals.
- Emergency Major Maintenance—the national office experienced an emergency electrical repair this week. Duke Electric was replacing service poles and discovered that the wiring inside the main meter box for the building had melted. Duke would not reconnect electric until it was repaired. Per the Major Maintenance policy, NLT was notified and gave approval to make the repair. The breaker box was so old that there was not even a main on/off switch (estimated installation was the 1961 addition build on). The repair was 3200.00.
- Vacation—I am on vacation from 10/11-10/25. I will be in Europe and will not be present at the 10/23 Council meeting. I will be back in time for the face to face. Elizabeth will be your point of contact for any needs while I am gone. She knows how to reach me in an emergency.

UPDATES: Cornwall

- RMM lease—Thank you for voting via email regarding ROFR and the Use MOU. At the time of my writing this, I anticipate conversation with RMM this week for feedback from their legal team. Our legal team has been given a heads up to the changes we anticipate. Therefore, we anticipate the lease will be ready for Thanh to sign before the renewal date.

- Cornwall Use MOU—as soon as I am back from vacation, we will begin working on the MOU. A few SCAG Mission Initiatives were submitted, in which they indicated potential uses/dates as we have asked. I will work diligently to ensure this process is fair and easy before the MOU is signed…so that they can begin planning in earnest once/if their MI requests are approved in November.

UPDATES: Loveland

- Akhmim exhibit—Gail Malley presented via zoom to the Embroiderers Guild of America and several grail members logged in as well. A friend of hers has offered to edit the presentation—and hopefully merge with footage of the exhibit we will send them—into a great video to share via NGN and on our Youtube channel.
- AJFO Conference (https://ajfo.org/conference)—I am working on a flyer as a takeaway for the conference since the folks who invited us are unable to have a video in their space.
- CREW—This year we had some great responses to our end of summer survey. I have included the results in the Council packet for you to see.

Decisions Needed:

1. Approval of Basic Budget