

SCUM Meeting Minutes February 2 , 2009

About forty-seven in attendance, plus 2 guests.

The meeting, with Walt presiding for the last time this year, got off to a late start because of difficulties in setting up and connecting the projector [My comments: looks like one knowledgeable person should volunteer to be responsible for the job].

The 2009 slate of officers was unanimously voted into office; the new officers are:

Geoff Fernald and Joyce Friedlander as co-chairs

Jack Fisher as treasurer

Betty Torrez as secretary

Dan Bellack as webmaster/Apple Ambassador

Jack Fisher was busy collecting dues, which are payable now, We have fifty paid members as of this meeting which means a number of you still haven't helped us with 2009 dues. (Thank you in advance to those who have not paid but are yet planning to get their dues in soon.)

Edd Dundas kicked off the mentoring program by describing how it will work, to wit:

Any member in good standing should contact Edd by email at dundas88@gmail.com, describing the area of interest and level of help needed (e.g, beginning, intermediate, advanced problem with using styles in Pages); one of the 13 mentors will contact the member to set up a mutually acceptable time for the session. More mentors are welcome to sign up with Edd. The system has real potential, and it will work if there are enough members with a need -- and knowledgeable mentors.

Dan fielded a problem with getting email in the lab; conclusion was that it might be difficult, and under no condition is anyone entitled to set-up or change accounts on any of the computers. Don't even think about it!

Dan presented a change to the bylaws, adding the possibility that there be a co-chair for president; the change was approved and is posted on the web site.

Joe Kimble announced that he will be giving a slide presentation of his trip to New Zealand on February 13, 10 to 11 a.m., in the Chestnut Room. Apple Keynote was used for the presentation.

411 Problems

Nancy Oliver reported back on her problem with Earthlink dropping service. The problem was with Earthlink, and they finally fixed it just because she finally contacted a technician who figured it out (ask for Steve if you also have the problem).

Art said that his latest Leopard upgrade made some programs disappear from the dock, and they could not be restored.

Walt made a presentation on external storage devices, including flash drives and hard drives. This led to a discussion of USB, USB2, Firewire 400 and 800. Dan mentioned that USB2 and Firewire 400 are of similar speed, and the Firewire 800 is probably going to die.

Walt then made another presentation on Uninterruptible Power Supplies; the need only exists for desktops since a laptop has a self-contained battery; the UPS will typically keep the computer alive for 10 minutes after a power failure, which is plenty of time to tidy up whatever you were doing and then shut down until power is restored. It might be worth the money if you are subjected to a lot of power failures.

Respectfully submitted by Fred Offenbach, Secretary