

Auction Committee Annual Report - May 2023

Chair and Members: Chris Long, co-chair; Ally Dehoff, co-chair; Carol Kern; Jim Kern; George Lally; Cynthia Baute; Gretchen Luke; Pam Phillips, ex-officio; Ericka Kelly, ex-officio

Purpose of the Committee: Plan, organize, and run the yearly auction; solicit donations from the congregation; collect payments after the auction has completed.

Achievements: Successfully ran the Spring 2023 auction, raising \$16,584.47 (\$17,041.63 gross minus \$457.16 in processing fees); Collected \$16,611.63 of these funds, leaving \$430.00 yet to be collected; Ensured winners have received their physical items (when relevant) and facilitated any issues with events that arised.

Lessons Learned: The vast amount of staff required to run this event every year is an ongoing issue and one we ran into, with the Spring 2023 auction requiring a former member to take a week off of work in the leadup to the auction to ensure everything ran smoothly, subsequently resulting in this member leaving the committee as a result of not having the time to commit again to what was asked of them previously. We are attempting to mitigate this by assigning specific jobs to individuals who lack the time or desire to join the larger committee, but who would still like to assist.

We also noted that announcing the amount of money made in the auction immediately after bidding ends puts a lot of pressure on the individual entering bids live during the auction and often results in inaccurate announcements. In the future we will wait to announce the earnings until after the data has been checked, and will assign multiple volunteers to the task of entering live data.

In addition, we had a lot of smaller, physical items donated, a fair number of which were sold for very little or were not sold at all. This made the above job harder for us, requiring upward of 40 person-hours to just put the information into the system, while not resulting in a lot of income (\$4417.00). We have not found a good solution for this yet, but we are actively working on it. Potential solutions include limiting the number of smaller physical items donated, not including these items in an online catalog beforehand, or finding a way to increase the number of volunteers entering this data.

Expenses for the Year to Date:

Category	Amount
Auctria License	\$383.47
Stripe Fee	\$453.90

Decorations \$70.81
Childcare \$140.96

How does the committee or group work to further our mission and vision? Our most direct contribution is being the largest fundraiser outside of our yearly stewardship drive. This extra funding allows us to better balance the yearly budget and offer other groups the ability to reach out to the congregation and the larger community. More importantly, however, is our facilitation of community building and fun times through the events we auction off. Our events do the best out of all our categories and help give congregants the motivation to plan an event and invite their fellow UUC members for a joyful time, helping to strengthen the bonds between each other.

Goals for the coming year and how do they further our mission and vision? We plan to move the upcoming auction back to a timeframe that runs opposite the stewardship drive, giving the congregants the ability to be more generous during both fundraisers. We also lost sight of the power of events and will be working to include more of these and less of the other categories.