

**WRA Board Meeting Minutes**

May 14, 2010

12:30-2:00

DATCP/Teleconference

- I. The meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by President Deb Henderson-Guenther.
  - a. Board members/members available:  
Deb Henderson-Guenther, Holly Rogers, Amy Thomson, Jackie Wenkman, Allison Lourash, DeLeana Stroh, Tim Solfest, Dennis Carriere.
  - b. Approval of March minutes.  
*Motion by Holly to approve the March minutes, seconded by Dennis. Motion carried.*
  - c. Approval of the agenda. *Motion by Dennis to approve agenda, seconded by Holly. Motion carried.*
  - d. Treasurer's Report: Holly reported the balance of the checkbook. We are on track with our budget so far. Holly will again ask the bank to have them change the address on the account to her address. Dennis thanked Holly and Deb for all their work involved in straightening out the treasury. *Motion by Amy to approve the treasurer report, seconded by Dennis. Motion carried.*
  
- II. Old Business
  - a. Governmental Affairs Summit recap: Allison. Besides what was already put in the newsletter, there was definitely more awareness about the WIA reauthorization.
  - b. RFW/WRA conference wrap up: Dennis. No future meetings have been set, as Nancy Gores is on a leave of absence.
    - 418 attendees
    - Evaluations were completed by 81. Suggested a need for more Assistive Technology. 3.67 rating out of 4 for the entire conference. Positive feedback for the American Club.
    - Friday's attendance was only 128. Money was saved by having boxed lunches and it was discussed to cut lunch that day and changing/stopping the entertainment for only that day for next year's conference.
    - Its unclear if WRA will get any money from the conference at this time.
    - Sponsorship/Exhibitors were down from previous years.
    - Unexpected expense of the conference shuttle.
    - Steve Gilles suggests taking Transition out of the title of the conference. Nothing has been decided yet, but there would still be a transition track.

c. Ethics teleconference: Deb. Deb is working on getting this set up for an end of July/early August 90 minute teleconference training. 1.5 CRC ethics credits would be available. Deb is trying to get Linda Hedenbladd (sic) as the speaker. WisLine can be set up through CAP. We would also need to set up an evaluation survey on Survey Monkey, stamps to send certificates out to attendees.

d. Great Lakes Membership: Deb. Update from the last meeting that we are required to be Great Lakes members and we are up to date on our membership fees. The \$200 fee is used by the Great Lakes board to have someone attend the NRA board meetings. They are also working on a speaker's bureau in the region, and the president of Great Lakes will be attending our September board meeting by phone.

e. LTE hours & activities: Deb. Britny Polasek started March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We expect 10-15 hours per month work for her. Activities include:

- Emailing UW-Madison and UW-Stout to ask for research abstracts for upcoming newsletters.

- Started a membership survey, but NRA president Beverlee Stafford asked us to wait to not interfere with their survey. Deb will follow up to find out if that is now complete.

- Completed a new phone script to welcome new members. (NRA is behind in sending the transaction list of who is lapsed due to their computer program changeover. So no calls made yet.)

- Asked to update the WRA conference picture board.

- Interviewed Dr. Berven and Cindy Cain as member spotlights for the newsletter. Cindy's will be used in the future.

- Creating a listserv for all members.

- Working on membership lapsed script for calling lapsed members.

- Let Deb know if you have any need/ideas of activities for Britny.

### III. New Business:

a. UW-Madison Spring Fling event and future collaboration opportunities: Deb. WRA did not sponsor the Spring Fling this year, but Dr. Lynch kept the logo on all fliers. Deb attended the event and was invited to a meeting with faculty on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss WRA. Discussed how to be better partners with WRA. One idea was to include updates from the Rehab Psych department and UW-Stout in the newsletters. Faculty will work on changing their curriculum to include discussing professional organizations/professional identity and their importance.

Another idea was include a student representative on the board.

There was discussion about having a Legislative Summit for members and Dave Rosenthal suggested instead that we collaborate with the Legislative summit the Independent Living Centers put on every year.

Another idea was to have students from both campuses present posters of their research at the RFW/WRA conference.

- b. Conference changes being discussed: Deb.
  - Exhibitors reception held in an open ballroom as it was too crowded in the hallway.
  - Subcommittees will be formed to review student and professional research submissions.
  - change the name to not include the word Transition.
  - Working on getting people to want to stay on Friday.
  - Planning committee members will be asked to commit to the planning process and there will be member expectations for them to review.

c. Endorsement of Cayte Anderson to present at the Northeastern Rehab conference. Deb endorsed her submission, and it has been approved.

d. Membership Chair. Susie Eberhard is on a leave of absence from the board. Holly is co-chair, and DeLeana volunteered to also co-chair. The LTE can also be asked for assistance as needed.

e. Summer e-newsletter: Deb. The aim is to have 4 e-newsletters per year. Late July or August is the next timeframe for a newsletter. Tim Solfest (UW-Stout student member) agreed to help, as will DeLeana. The member spotlight is already complete, and there were several other ideas discussed.

#### IV. Committee Reports

- a. Nominations and awards-None at this time
- b. Program-Already reported conference happenings.
- c. Legislative-Allison. Jim Hill, Tim Carey, Deb and Allison need to meet and set some priorities/plan for the future. Deb will set the meeting up.
  - Allison is also looking into WRA becoming a member of the Survival Coalition. It covers statewide legislative issues and has position papers on various areas that impact people with disabilities. This may be one way to provide more statewide information to our members about legislation.
- d. Public Information: Allison. We have 12 friends on our facebook page, and a few she didn't recognize. Search under Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association on facebook to join. Allison will write up a short description of facebook and how to join for the newsletter. Holly also suggested Linked In as another networking option. She lists NRA,WRA and other links on her page. Deb thanked Allison for meeting one of our strategic goals for the year by creating the page.

- e. Membership- DeLeana. UW-Stout VR club had a picnic and DeLeana was handing out NRA applications. She expects a few more student members.
  - Deb was interested in a student mentor program for next year with having a member sharing the benefits of WRA with students. Holly would like to speak with student groups/classes as well.

V. Board Reports

- a. President-nothing further.
- b. Vice President: Dennis. It's not too soon to start thinking about next year's board.
- c. Board Members at Large-none.

VI. Chapter Reports

- a. Student Chapters-There is a UW-Stout student social Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>. They would like if a WRA member spoke to the group. Holly would be interested in this.

VII. Division Reports

- b. JPD-no report.
- c. WRCEA-DeLeana stated they raised more money than usual at the conference with the 50/50 raffle. They are also sponsoring an ethics presentation from TASE for the UW-Stout conference in October. Anna also reported via email that WRCEA is also working on promoting approval of CEUs that can be offered to members and non-members for a fee.
- d. Multi-cultural-no report.

Upcoming events/trainings: Stout Conference is Oct. 20-21 in Menomonie.

Assistive Technology Expo is Oct. 21 in Madison.

NRA Annual Conference is Oct. 12-17 in New Orleans.

Future meetings:

**The June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting is cancelled.** The next meeting will be by teleconference on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Meeting adjourned 2:00.

