
CALL TO ORDER
President Susie Eberhard called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at Houlihan’s in Lake Delton, WI. No guests were present at this meeting.

Introductions/transition of new board members:
Introductions were made, see Board member listing. Cheryl Schlitz is a new incoming board member at large. The board presented Kathy Hoff with a plaque for her 10+ years of service. Kathy is the outgoing secretary and thanked everyone and said it has been a wonderful experience.
Dennis Carriere reported 115 ballots were sent out and about a quarter were returned. See attached Board member listing for results.

Approval of 2009 Committee Chairs:
Public Information: Jim Hill/Jenny Neugart
Legislative: Allison Lourash, Tim Carey
Program: Michael Hermsmeier
Membership: Deb Henderson-Guenther
Nominations and Awards: Jenny Neugart
Website Liaison: Jim Hill/Tim Carey
Motion made by Dennis Carriere for the president to approve the appointment of the above committee chairs, seconded by Deb Henderson-Guenther. Motion Carried.

Approval of Agenda
The agenda had been sent out to board members prior to the meeting. Motion made by Rich Willette, seconded by Erik Martin to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Secretary’s Report:
Minutes from the December 2008 meeting had been e-mailed to board members prior to the meeting by Kathy Hoff. Kathy gave all hard copies of past WRA minutes from 1997 to 2005 and paperwork to incoming secretary, Amy Thomson. Kathy will download 2006 information forward onto a flash drive and mail to Amy. Motion made by Dennis Carriere, seconded by Troy Cobb to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report
Rich Willette shared current balances in checking, savings and CD accounts. Rich has the new Quicken software and is using it for WRA treasury information. Reimbursements made since our last meeting include postage for WRA ballots, membership renewal and computer services to T. Carey. Erik Martin suggested transferring the savings account to an online banking system such as “ING”. The interest is 2.5% versus the 1.5% at Associated Bank.
Deb Henderson-Guenther also suggested transferring some money to one of the banks that offer $50 or $100 credit for opening a new account, i.e. Chase, Anchorbank. Usually there is no minimum balance and after 6 months the account can be closed. **Motion made by Erik Martin to move money from savings at Associated Bank to ING, seconded by Deb Henderson-Guenther. Motion carried.** Erik will work with Rich Willette on this. **Motion made by Dennis Carriere, seconded by Erik Martin to approve the Treasurer’s report. Motion carried.**

2009 BUDGET/COMMITTEE REQUESTS
WRA/RFW Conference Agreement-Income
Dennis Carriere met with Thomas Cook (RFW executive director) and Katie Powers (Conference Coordinator) in early January regarding how to share conference profits. WRA will receive 8% of the profits if they are the same as last year and if the profit is higher, WRA will get 1% of the increase. This flat percentage will be easier to track versus the old way of counting the WRA members in attendance and offering WRA a percentage based on that number. **Motion made by Erik Martin to accept RFW proposed 8% profit sharing with WRA, seconded by Troy Cobb. Motion carried.**

Michael Hermsmeier will check with RFW regarding Kathy Hoff’s green tote idea. If people bring their RFW/WRA bag from previous years, they will be entered for a cash prize. A separate email can sent to RFW members about this new idea. This will mean a lower cost for new bags as well.
WRA has had sponsorships of RFW sessions in the past. Amy Thomson will check with Jackie Wenkman about possible Pathways/WRA sponsorship for 2009.

Public Information
Jim Hill purchases $1/color copy from RFW for the WRA newsletter. Kinko’s and other printers are double this cost. Other printer suggestions were ERI, or Good Doggy (contact Michael Hermsmeier) for less than $1. Amy Thomson also suggested emailing a link to the WRA newsletter on the WRA website to members, this would go along with WRA “going green” and to save on printing/mailing costs. The online newsletter version could be printable. The membership committee will work on collecting all emails of WRA members, and Michael Hermsmeier will figure out cost for printing from Good Doggy. It was proposed that one hardcopy newsletter still be done, with the next being email.
Jim Hill will also check with Tim Carey on the change in hosting/server for the WRA website. Tim calculates $95 is needed, but it is unclear if this is an additional expense or if this in place of the old server/host cost.
Cheryl Schlitz shared that the UW journalism department may be willing to assist with the newsletter and/or website content.

OLD BUSINESS
Scholarships
Two $400/person scholarships to attend the RFW conference will continue.

Governmental Affairs
No money will be budgeted this year for the Governmental Affairs summit.
Website accessibility
Michael Hermsmeier will follow up with Tim Carey again regarding accessibility of the WRA website.

The 2009 budget was decided upon.
Motion made by Deb Henderson-Guenther to approve 2009 budget with no funds for the NRA or Legislative Affairs conferences, seconded by Cheryl Schlitz. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS
Elections
Deb Henderson-Guenther suggested including a stamped addressed return envelope with future election mailings. Also suggested was setting up the election online through survey monkey or another online service. The membership committee will seek feedback from members on elections.

Meetings
Susie Eberhard would like to reinstate a General Membership meeting and have the first this year at the RFW Kohler Conference. The board will poll members regarding purpose and what they are interested in via an online survey or at the meeting. An email to members as well as a flier in the RFW conference packet will inform members of the meeting time/date. Jim Hill would like to know what info should be included on the website, as well. Wednesday, April 1, 5:30 to 7 pm at the RFW conference the general meeting time was proposed.
It was proposed to have more board meetings, for shorter time one hour periods, throughout the year. Board members could attend by conference call through www.freeteleconference.com (board member is responsible for long distance charges), or in person in Madison at the Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) building, 2811 Agriculture Drive*. Dates and times selected are:

Friday, March 6th 10am-11am
Wednesday, April 1st 5:30-7pm*
Friday, June 5th 10am-11am
Friday, August 7th 10am-11am
Friday, October 9th 10am-11am
January 2010 transition meeting to be determined at 10/9 meeting
*All meetings are teleconference or in person at the DATCP building in Madison, EXCEPT Wednesday, April 1st which will be in Kohler.

Motion by Jenny Neugart, seconded by Dennis Carriere to have a general membership meeting at Kohler Wednesday, April 1 5:30 to 7PM. Motion carried.

Motion by Erik Martin to have board meetings every other month for one hour in Madison at DATCP or teleconference, with in person, longer meetings for the January transition meetings and RFW conference. Seconded by Rich Willette. Motion carried.

Goals for 2009
- Increase membership (network with other states for member recruiting ideas, outreach and education of mission to students)
- Increase membership participation (example, ask organizations with members to link to the WRA website)
-Use technology to enhance mission (WRA Facebook page, and/or LinkedIn page. Both are social and professional networking websites). Erik, Cheryl and/or Michael will work on setting up a Facebook page.

- More involvement with elections, such as online voting and return envelopes by mail.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Nominations and Awards-

Program-Michael will prepare a flier to be included with the RFW conference materials to inform WRA members and those interested in becoming a member of the general membership meeting to be held 4-1-09 at Kohler. He will send a draft to Jim Hill and Susie Eberhard for edits. Michael will let Katie Snow, RFW, that he is preparing this information as well.

Legislative-
Rich Willette read an email from Tim Carey that the marriage penalty for Medicaid is coming up again. For more information, go to www.Disabilityvoice.us

Public Information-Jim Hill will work on editing the flier for the general membership meeting with Michael Hermsmeier.

Membership
Deb Henderson-Guenther will schedule a Membership committee meeting to develop a plan based on the 2009 goals and bring back to the board at the March meeting. Troy Cobb, Jenny Neugart, Cheryl Schlitz, and Michael Hermsmeier were interested in meeting with the membership committee.

BOARD REPORTS
President-Susie Eberhard had no report.

President Elect-Deb Henderson-Guenther had no report.

Past President-Dennis Carriere had several items from the RFW conference.
-WRA has an exhibit table for 2 days. We will need to have people to staff the table.
-In the past, WRA has contributed door prizes. All WRA board members will try to contribute one item to the WRA door prizes. Amy Thomson will email a reminder to the board in late February/early March.
-Volunteers are needed for the Collating meeting March 20th 10am at RFW office, Madison.
-If anyone has a contact to a WI based company willing to donate their food or product at the conference, contact Deb Henderson-Guenther.

Vice President- Troy Cobb had no report.

Board Members at Large
No report.

Consumer Board Member-Jenny Neugart stated the Youth Leadership Forum is scheduled for June 23-27 at Edgewood College in Madison. Applications are due
March 21. Volunteers will be needed for mentors for the Legislative Affair day. More info to come.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Student Chapters
Susie Eberhard reported the student chapter at UW Stout has been staying active.

DIVISION REPORTS

JPD
Colleen Gonzales is the new president. Erik Martin believed JPD will be meeting next week.

WRCEA
Erik Martin stated that WRCEA has a new president, Anna Eggebrecth and they are planning to sponsor the breakfast at the 2009 Tech Expo again and also an event at SVRI. They are recruiting student members and a board member at large.

Multi-Cultural
Troy Cobb has three new members and has plans to increase membership for the year. The Multi-Cultural division would like to try to sponsor a diversity training this year.

OTHER:

*Motion made by Rich Willette, seconded by Dennis Carriere to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.*

Next Meeting: Friday, March 6,
10:00 AM-11AM
DATCP, Madison, or by teleconference

MARK YOUR CALENDARS-Board Meeting Schedule for 2009:

Wednesday, April 1st 5:30-7pm*
Friday, June 5th 10am-11am
Friday, August 7th 10am-11am
Friday, October 9th 10am-11am
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Submitted by: Amy Thomson
WRA Secretary