WRA BOARD MEETING  
December 5, 2008  
DATCP  
Madison, WI

Present:  Dennis Carriere, Michael Hermsmeier, Jim Hill, Troy Cobb, 
Via Conference Call: Amy Thomson, Susie Eberhard, Erik Martin, Kathy Hoff

CALL TO ORDER
President Dennis Carriere called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM at DATCP in 
Madison, WI.  No guests were present at this meeting.

Approval of Agenda
The agenda had been sent out to board members prior to the meeting.     Motion made 
by Susie Eberhard, seconded by Jim Hill to approve the agenda.  Motion carried.

Secretary’s Report:
Minutes from the September 2008 meeting had been e-mailed to board members prior 
to the meeting. In the Treasurer’s Report, the dollar amount listed for WRA 
reimbursement from RFW for the Rehab Conference was inaccurately reported and will 
be corrected. Under Board Reports, clarification will be made on information stated 
under the President Elect report. Motion made by Susie Eberhard, seconded by Jim Hill 
to accept the minutes.  Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report
Rich Willette was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, Dennis Carriere 
distributed copies of the Treasurer’s Report to include current balances in checking, 
savings and CD accounts. Reimbursements made since our last meeting include 
payment for the last newsletter, Legislative Affairs Day, Tim Carey for the website, and 
Troy Cobb and Dennis Carriere to attend the National Conference. Funds still need to 
be reimbursed to JPD/WRCEA for the SVRI Training.
NRA is currently going though some financial difficulty. Dennis shared that he received 
a FAX indicating the rebates to state associations will be made in the very near future. 
There was some discussion about the recent transfer of dollars from savings to 
checking to insure expenses are covered. Dennis feels at this time we are stable but 
the trend of transferring funds cannot continue.  We will need to have a lean 2009 
budget and/or generate more income.
Motion made by Erik Martin, seconded by Troy Cobb to approve the Treasurer’s report. 
Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

2009 Ballot
Dennis reports the ballot is coming together and he is hoping to get it in the mail next 
week. Current ballot includes:
President Elect           Deb Henderson-Guenther
Secretary                Amy Thomson
Vice President           Troy Cobb
Consumer Board Member    Jenny Wagner
Board Members at Large   Erik Martin
                          Cindy Cain
                          Jackie Wenkman
                          Cheryl Schiltz
Recommendations:
Program Chair     Michael Hermsmeier
Public Information  Jim Hill
Legislative Co-Chairs  Allison Lourash
                                  Tim Carey

WRA/RFW Conference Agreement
Dennis has been exchanging e-mails with Katie Powers (Conference Coordinator) and Tom Cook (RFW Executive Director) regarding putting our conference agreement with RFW in writing. Dennis is asking for input from the board. He feels the mood at RFW is more open for negotiation than it has been in past years. Discussion included:
- clarifying attendee affiliations for % purposes
- recognizing what WRA brings to the table
- efforts of WRA members in attending planning meetings/assisting at the conference
- efforts of WRCEA for managing CRC credits
- session sponsorship
- financial contributions from WRA affiliated organizations

In an effort to focus on “going green”, re-use of tote bags was discussed. It was suggested that the names of people who re-use/recycle tote bags from previous years would be entered in a drawing, possibly for a cash prize.
Dennis feels that Katie is organized and doing a good job; her style is a bit more of making decisions herself rather than getting input from others.

NEW BUSINESS

2009 Government Affairs Summit
The session will be held March 8-10th at the Hilton Alexandria. Registration fee is $215.000 before 2/13/09. Dennis suggests sending two people this year. Susie will consider going; Jim Hill is going on his own and Cayte Anderson may possibly attend.
The NRA Conference for 2009 is being held in Louisville, KY, September 10th through the 13th.

Count Us in Campaign
NRA has launched the “Count Us in Campaign” as an annual fundraiser. WRA has been contacted and asked to make a monetary contribution to this effort. Motion made by Jim Hill, seconded by Erik Martin to not financially contribute to the Count Us in Campaign, but rather make contributions through NRA Conference participation. Motion carried.

2009 Transition Meeting
Possible dates for the 2009 transition meeting were discussed. The Rehab Conference planning committee is meeting on 1/9/09 at the RFW Office. Motion made by Susie Eberhard, seconded by Jim Hill to hold the 2009 Transition Meeting on January 30th, at Houlihan’s Restaurant in Lake Delton, WI; WRA will incur the cost of lunch for those in attendance. Motion carried. Start time for the meeting will be 10:00 AM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Nominations and Awards
Scholarships for the Rehab conference was discussed. Application forms need to get out so there it time for them to be returned/reviewed and allow recipients time to plan. It was recommended that three board members review the applications.
Program
Michael Hermsmeier shared information from the last conference planning meeting. Tracks are in the process of being determined and will include the standards: transition, mid-management, ethics and employment. Speakers are being discussed and finalized. The improv group “Monkey Business” is being considered. They were well received at a DVR training. The next planning meeting is 1/9/09 at the RFW Office in Madison, WI.

Legislative
Cayte Anderson was unable to attend.

Public Information
Jim Hill had thought about sending out a newsletter with the ballot but time did not allow this to occur. The next newsletter will come out in spring. Jim would like Troy Cobb to submit an article on the Multi-Cultural Division highlighting what is happening in Wisconsin. Jim would like to update the website to include upcoming events. If you have anything that needs to be added, please let Jim know along with the time frame it should be posted.

Membership
Deb Henderson-Guenther will be setting up a table at the Transition Conference being held January 22nd and 23rd at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This conference draws a large contingent of teachers and DVR Counselors.

BOARD REPORTS
President
Dennis thanked current board members for their contributions and efforts during the past year. He expressed appreciation for being able to attend the NRA Conference.

President Elect
Susie also acknowledged appreciation to all board members this year for their efforts.

Past President
No report

Vice President
No report.

Board Members at Large
No report.

Consumer Board Member
No report.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Student Chapters
The student chapter at UW Stout has been busy. They adopted a family for Christmas is for Kids. Dennis asked that information from the student chapters be submitted to him for the annual report. He needs to submit the report by 2/1/09.
DIVISION REPORTS

JPD
JPD will be meeting next week. The focus of the group for the upcoming year will be to support the Job Developers Network throughout Wisconsin. Erik will forward the name of the 2009 JPD President to Dennis

WRCEA
WRCEA sponsored the breakfast at the Tech Expo. It was felt this event was well attended. WRCEA also shared an information table with WRA at the Tech Expo for recruitment purposes.
WRCEA sponsored a session at the SVRI Conference, it went well. The feeling is WRCEA’s representation at events has a positive impact on students.
WRCEA will be sending out ballots for the 2009 board elections shortly.
Jim Hill has requested that any pictures taken from the Tech Expo and SVRI Conference be sent to him for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Multi-Cultural
Troy Cobb attended the NAMRC Pre NRA Conference on October 23rd and 24th. He indicated the sessions were well attended and informative. Session content included relevance of diversity, leadership and inappropriate incarcerations. Troy expressed his appreciation to the board for the monetary contribution for him to attend this event. Troy has pictures from the NRA Conference that he will provide to Jim for the next newsletter.
Troy will continue to be NAMRC President for 2009. He would like to have more promotional materials for recruitment purposes.

OTHER:

Website
The board indicated that Tim Carey should go forward with the changes on the website in regards to the recommendations that he had made.
Michael Hermsmeier expressed some concern that the website is not accessible for individuals with visual impairments. Michael will contact Tim directly about this and further discussion will be held at the Transition meeting in January.

“Congratulations” to Amy Thomson on her upcoming arrival in May!

Motion made by Susie Eberhard, seconded by Erik Martin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Next Meeting: Friday, January 30, 2009
10:00 AM
Houlihans’ Restaurant
Lake Delton, WI

Submitted by: Kathy Hoff
WRA Secretary