Wisconsin Rehabilitation Association

WRA Board Meeting
January 7, 2011
1:00 PM

“Nothing great in this world has ever been achieved without great passion.” G.W. F. Hegel

1. Call to Order: 1:00 pm.
   b. **Motion to approve the 12/9/10 minutes by Dennis. Seconded by DeLeana. Motion approved.**
   c. **Motion to approve agenda by Amy. Seconded by Dennis. Motion approved.**
   d. Secretary’s Report~please provide updated contact information to Amy.
   e. Treasurer’s Report: Deb will be contacting Holly to double check that we are not missing NRA payments from 2009 and 2010, besides the last 2 quarters of 2010.

2. Old Business
   a. Committee Chair Descriptions. Deb sent out the descriptions for all chair positions. The hope is to find board volunteers to chair committees and if no board members, go to the general membership for someone to volunteer. **Motion to accept the committee chair descriptions by DeLeana. Seconded by Dennis. Motion carried.**
   b. Letter of Support on definition of pre-vocational services. The board will attempt to schedule a teleconference call with John Reiser, DHS and Thomas Cook, RFW to hear their respective statements and viewpoints as this is not a straightforward issue. The board will then decide how best to proceed with a letter of recommendation.
   c. Other letters of support that WRA has written in the past year included:
      - for Chan/Lui for a grant from RRTC for Effective VR service delivery. They did receive the grant.
      - a letter to support keeping Charlene Dwyer as the DVR Administrator.
      - for the continuation of the MIG grant. The award was granted at a reduced amount than expected, but this was the case nationwide.
   d. The Summer 2011 Youth Leadership Forum application is available. The specific dates of the forum have not been announced. Jim and Allison and possibly others would be interested in mentoring for the “Capitol Day”. Since no date was supplied, b Deb will contact Joe Mielczarek to let him know of our interest to help.
e. **Tom Stewart Scholarship Fund:** There is a need for donations to the Tom Stewart Memorial fund. The board decided to each consider a private donation to the fund rather than a WRA donation at this time.

3. **New Business**

   a. **Elect Committee Chairs:**
      i. Legislative Chair: Allison Lourash
      ii. Membership Chair: Holly Rogers (tentative)
      iii. Public Information Chair: Jenny Neugart
      iv. Nominations and Awards Chair: A call out to members will be made
      v. Program Chair: Dennis Carriere
      vi. Website Chair: Mark Poffinbarger

      The President confirmed these chairs.

      **Motion to accept the committee chairs was made by DeLeana. Seconded by Mark. Motion carried.**

   b. Develop and approve our 2011 strategic goals. The goals discussed at the Dec. 9th meeting were reviewed and discussed.

      **Goal 1.** Increase membership by 10% specifically target students, lapsed members and new professionals. It was suggested that we offset the cost for student members i.e. $25 off for the first 10 new students. We could track the students and see if they continue to be professional members. The first 10 can send their check to NRA to Dennis and he will track the numbers and people. Deb thought we should set a deadline such as March 1st for this. Jenny and Deb will write a blurb to send out to the schools and post on Facebook. DeLeana has 3 applications already as of today’s meeting.

      **Motion by Dennis to use $250 on targeted student membership by assisting with offsetting the cost of membership for the first 10 students. DeLeana seconded. Motion carried.**

      **Goal 2.** Continue to explore a state conference partnership with APSE. Jenny will continue to work on this.

      **Goal 3.** Continue Professional trainings. Deb has 3 ideas for trainings already and it was suggested we could try bundling the 3 for a reduced rate to members. Three training ideas: Benefits Analysis training 101 from ERI; Personality Disorders; and Burning Bright without Burning out or an ethics course.

      We’ll try to schedule these soon. If you know of any important dates to avoid (because of conferences, etc.) please let Deb know.

      **Goal 4.** Legislative Advocacy

      **Goal 5.** Increase membership networking opportunities e.g. add a social hour/time to something we already do.

   c. Develop and approve our 2011 budget

      i. JPD requests $400 for training and employer scholarships. JPD plans on providing a job coaching training in the fall and employer awards. We’d like to make sure WRA has more acknowledgements at these events. A WRA board member would be available to share materials, and include WRA on all materials for any trainings/awards/scholarships.
ii. In future years, it would be good to have a year end report and breakdown from the treasurer of how money was spent. After the 2011 budget is approved, any committee chair or chapter needing additional funds can make a request to the board for consideration.

**A motion to approve the budget was made by Dennis. Seconded by DeLeana. Motion carried.**

d. Meeting dates for 2011: 2nd Friday of every month at 1-3pm until June.  
   - Friday, Feb. 11: 1-3pm teleconference
   - Friday, March 11: 1-3pm teleconference
   - Friday, April 8th: 7:30-8:30am (tentative time) breakfast at Ostoff/Rehabilitation and Transition Conference
   - Friday, May 13th: 1-3pm teleconference
   - Friday, June 10th: 1-3pm teleconference
   We will schedule the remainder of the meetings at a later date.

4. Committee Reports
   a. Program-Dennis and Deb reported on the Rehab & Transition Conference. There are 33 break out sessions with a different structure than in the past with some 45 minute and some 90 minute break outs. There will be a poster session and carousel session. Denise Bissonnette has agreed to be a keynote and do some extra sessions. Beverlee Stafford is sponsored by WRA and Pathways. New this year, are scholarship monies for families and consumers interested in attending the conference. There is an application online.
   b. Legislative-Allison will attend the Governmental Affairs Summit: March 21-23rd.
      i. There is a call for action from National Registry of Technology Suppliers to call in February for a change in Medicare to not have in home restrictions.
   c. Public Information-Jenny is planning to have a newsletter out by the end of January. Any calendar events that you’d like added, please send to Jenny.
   d. Membership-Holly has been making many contacts.

5. Chapter Reports
   a. Student-no report
   b. JPD-no report
   c. WRCEA-no report

Meeting adjourned at 4pm.