WRA Board Meeting  
March 11, 2011  
1-3 PM

The more we take the welfare of others to heart and work for their benefit, the more benefit we derive for ourselves. This is a fact that we can see--Dalai Lama

1. Call to Order: The meeting began at 1pm.  
   a. Introductions: Board members present by phone or in person: Holly Rogers, Deb Henderson-Guenther, Dennis Carrierre, Allison Lourash, Kristin Habich, DeLeana Strohl, Courtney Hilgendorf, Mark Poffinbarger, Megan Grasser, Amy Thomson.  
   b. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda by Dennis.  Seconded by Kristin. Motion carried.  
   c. Secretary’s Report-no new report.  
   d. Treasurer’s Report-treasurer shared account amounts. Contact Holly with any questions about the amounts. We are still waiting for receipts from NRA for the student membership reimbursements sent late 2010.

2. Old Business  
   a. Scholarships (poster and student conference): There will be many diverse topics to be covered in the poster sessions. DeLeana thanked Deb for all of her efforts with this. The scholarships were awarded as well. It was brought up that maybe ribbons or nametags could designate the poster and/or scholarship awards. Deb had thought this would cost $500 for all name badges and the conference committee decided against it. However, after the meeting she learned of an alternative for $50-$80 for ribbons and sent the board info on this change. The board agreed to purchase the ribbons through post meeting voting.  
   b. Prevocational definition letter: Deb has not heard back from NRA on their stand on pre-voc services. Typically if NRA has not taken a stand on things, then WRA does not either. Dennis made a motion that due to the diversity of the membership, WRA is not taking a position on pre-vocational services. DeLeana seconded it. Motion carried.

3. New Business  
   a. The Legislative affairs committee motion to start forming small contingents to set up meetings with federal legislators for this spring to discuss the talking points that will be developed by NRA was approved. Discussed next steps. Allison has NRA’s talking points on
Obama’s budget. We could reach out to local WRA members for legislative committee’s and share the talking points (WI specific) and Allison’s contact information for technical assistance. The local WRA members would then meet with their local legislators to review and discuss points. DeLeana and Deb will assist Allison with getting a WI summary letter ready to share with local WRA membership, develop a training tool for those interested in the legislative process and then submit this to members for volunteering. It was also suggested that we could work the ILCs on issues.

DeLeana made a motion to create a WI position paper, training piece, request for volunteers with Allison as the main contact for legislative advocacy. Mark seconded. Motion carries.

b. Legislative affairs training in April sponsored by APSE. This is April 6th, which conflicts with the RFW/WRA conference. Survival Coalition meeting is also that day. Allison is continuing her efforts to have WRA join the Survival Coalition.

b. Great Lakes Region Updates: The Great Lakes Region (GLR) presents issues to NRA on a regional basis. The GLR presented to NRA their concern with NRA not having its 2010 books balanced, and the lack of a 2011 budget. Some responses from NRA is that they are aware of the concerns and:
   - their Quickbooks software is not communicating with the membership software/list which is causing confusion/problems.
   - National membership is very low,
   - taking 2 to 3 months to get new members and renewed members info into the system. Checking account deductions are done manually on a monthly basis, which is expensive and slow. People who renew in February, for example, would not actually be renewed until 3 months later. Asking for the membership to start at that point then.
   - The NRA president has made note of the GLR president’s concerns. The President’s meeting is set for the end of March and some ideas that will be discussed include:
     - increased transparency
     - no 3rd or 4th quarter reimbursements were paid out last year. NRA will suggest to surrender these to increase solvency.
   What can we do? Dennis suggested asking Beverlee Stafford to do a brief overview at the general membership meeting in April. We could also bring our concerns to that meeting.

4. Committee Reports
   a. Program: Dennis let us know that 192 have registered for the April conference. About 87 set aside for DVR have not been filled yet. This is lower than previous years. The leadership and rehabilitation leadership awardees have been chosen and will be informed soon. JPD’s employer award was also chosen. There is a change in the
CEU/CRC credit process. Also, the 2012 conference will be 1.5 days versus 3 days in the past.

Scholarships: 2 applicants but one was not approved. One scholarship will be awarded and possibly co-sponsored by WRA/WRCEA.

Dennis moved for 1 joint scholarship by WRA/WRCEA to be awarded for the conference. DeLeana seconded. Motion carried.

Deb: We’ll need volunteers for the CRC credit table, WRA table (Thursday only), and monitoring sessions. DeLeana suggested having students help as monitors. More info to come out soon on these opportunities closer to the conference.

b. Legislative: see under “New business”

c. Public Information: no update.

d. Membership: Holly had several ideas to continue with lapsing members, new members, surveys, and also mentoring new members. The LTE had been doing many of these things already. However, NRA’s information is so behind it may make WRA look bad to be contacting people several months after their new membership or non-renewed membership. We need NRA to get up to date. Dennis also suggested that we find out if any of the 10 new student members are attending the April conference and invite them to the April general membership meeting.

Thursday, April 7th will be the only day we have an exhibit table at the conference.

e. Website: Mark has been working with Tim Carey on ways to add updates and new info to the website. Wordpress is one format we could use. Mark will send out a link to an example site for the board to review. Tim Carey stated it would cost about $100 for conversion from our current website to Wordpress. The board will review the website and vote on conversion at that time.

5. Chapter Reports

a. Student Chapter-The UW-Stout chapter has been active with many activities:
-Polar Plunge on Feb. 27th. There were 2 jumpers and had $150 for donations. Pictures could be posted to the WRA facebook page.
-Penny Wars with in the VR departments to raise money for the Stepping Stones Food pantry.
-There will be a social after spring break.
-Volunteers from the club will help with the Ms. Wheelchair Pageant in April.
-April 9th is the annual mobility wash.
Courtney also thought we could add some more updates to our facebook page and that may catch student’s attention.

-Minutes submitted by Amy Thomson