I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.

Helen Keller

WRA Board Meeting
May 13, 2011
1:00-3:00 PM

1. Call to Order at 1pm.
   b. Approval of Agenda: Motion by Dennis to approve agenda. Mark seconded. Motion carried.
   c. Secretary’s Report: Jenny provided the April minutes. Motion by Mark to approve April minutes. Courtney seconded. Motion carried.
   d. Treasurer’s Report: Since Holly was not here, Deb provided totals for savings, CD and checking account.

2. Old Business
   a. Joining Survival Coalition- $135 annual fee (may be a different amount). Do we want to join and who would attend the meetings monthly? There are 2 hour meetings in mornings, typically in Madison. Individuals who are willing to attend meetings: Allison, Deb, Jenny, Dennis and Amy. Deb will check if joining the meetings by teleconference is possible. Motion by Dennis to have WRA join Survival Coalition and pay the annual fee. DeLeana seconded. Motion carried.

   b. Teleconference Training Opportunities for members: Deb has contacted several speakers for possible topics. Stephanie Drum and Megan Koch, ERI has offered to do a basic benefits session at no cost to WRA. Vivian Larkin would do a Minority sensitivity session for a nominal fee. Deb would like to hear other ideas as well. CRC hours are $65 for each session unless they are the same topic with multiple sessions and are required to attend all sessions. The aim would be to have the sessions 1 time per month for 3 months, possibly starting in July. John would like to work with WRA to do joint trainings this year with WRCEA since this is part of their strategic priorities. Jenny will also explore a Pay Pal-like option offered by Google.
A subcommittee will be formed and will meet soon: Jenny, DeLeana, Deb, John L and Amy volunteered.

c. Update on Great Lakes Regional Board activities: There are ongoing NRA fiscal issues (such as an $80,000 deficit for 2010, and $11,000 deficit for 2011). On May 9th, the GLRB send NRA Board a letter with some immediate action requests (such as: moratorium on travel sponsored by NRA, cancel NRA fall conference in Salt Lake City, set financial goals with timelines to reach those goals, and to have the NRA board become more active and reach out to other Rehab entities for assistance or possible partnerships). There also was a vote of no confidence of the treasurer. The treasurer did resign as of 5/13/11. It is likely that WRA will not receive any of the 2010 membership rebates that we were planning on. There has been no official response yet from NRA.

3. New Business:
   a. Banking at Associated Bank (WRA CD, Overdraft Protection, “pay-pal account”): The WRA CD is up for renewal on May 20th. It currently has a .2% interest rate at Associated Bank. Deb has looked at other options for moving the WRA banking to a credit union, especially for a better interest rate for the CD. The downside to credit unions is that there is not a statewide credit union known and when new Board members are elected, it is easier to have a statewide bank option. Another thing to keep in mind is that business accounts vs. personal accounts may have lower interest rates. For our need for a “pay-pal”/credit card type payment system, Associated Bank does offer a Merchant Service, but there is likely a fee. Motion by Dennis to move the CD to the WRA savings account to explore better CD interest rates. DeLeana seconded. Motion carried.

   b. Tax exempt status: Deb has researched this and found WRA was tax-exempt at one time. John and Deb both felt it is not worth the time or expense for the low return to do this. It would take over 10 years to recoup the cost if we look at the hotel taxes saved. We do file as a non-profit with the State of Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation Annual Report yearly with a fee of $10. We are following all tax filing laws as well.

   c. Cost for WRA Promotional Item i.e. Ribbons at RFW/WRA conference: WRA ribbons were purchased from Career Development for a reduced price of $87.50 due to shipping issues. This was ½ off of our original quote.

   d. Logo color: What is the logo color? Blue or Red? Mark will research which color and style is the most user-friendly for people with disabilities and share with the board.
e. Hotel charges for the student poster recipients: Motion by John L. that we accept $150 from the Student group and WRA will absorb the difference. Mark seconded. Motion carries.

f. Social Networking WRA style: We could be acknowledging our members/community more, such as births, deaths, accomplishments, etc. These acknowledgments could be announced in the newsletter, and/or posted on Facebook. This would be a good way to draw the younger audience. We would announce that we are looking for this info to our members. Once we begin receiving “news”, members will be sent an email update and it would be in the newsletter. Info could be posted on Facebook in the future as well. Motion to accept member announcements to be shared with the membership by Deb. Motion seconded: John. Motion carries.

g. UW-Stouts undergraduate training program: Deb talked with Susie Eberhard about a new undergraduate VR degree. Discussion occurred among the board about what this may mean to the profession as a whole. A newsletter article will be submitted by Susie.

h. Elections: Deb would like to hold elections in October and have results in November. This will allow for our December President’s report to be accurate and for a smooth transition to the next year. We also should be reaching out to people to serve on the board. If we could have names by the beginning to mid-September to Deb that would be great. This topic will be discussed in future meetings.

4. Committee Reports
   a. Program: Conference committee met today. They decided to stay at Osthoff for location. Dates April 10 (preconference), 11th, 12th, 2012. Planning is moving more quickly than last year.
   b. Legislative: WRA could look at inviting Aaron Bishop, Executive Director, National Council on Disability for the conference (possible keynote and he’s a WI native). Allison, attended Governmental Affairs summit and will submit a newsletter article. Presentations and disability statements were similar to the previous year. Great way to get national info. Allison also put together a 1 page primer about Voc. Rehab. per our discussion 2 meetings ago. Sam Ninnemann is also assisting with this. This would be shared with members. Next steps, we will be contacting members and partners to start meeting with legislators. The plan is to send this out by the end of May. We could set up meetings in June/July in their home districts.
   c. Public Information: Jenny would like to get the newsletter out by next Thursday (May 19th). We may need some more articles from
the conference. Other ideas, we could announce elections, talk about WVEA, and the political climate as well.

d. Membership: Holly has reached out to non-renewed/lapsed members. It is unclear how to proceed when NRA is so behind on membership.

e. Website: New website has been delayed. We have an opportunity to switch to a cheaper provider which would save $56/year. This would also provide more functionality than the Word Press. We could get a refund from CGI of $45 and moving it would cost $35 extra only this year. Over time, we save about $56/year. The change is not necessary to move forward, but it could cost more to move it in the future. Domain name registration is with one provider, but if we change providers, we should be able to keep our domain name.

Motion by Mark to switch our hosting and domain registration from CGI to Hosting Monster, with a savings of $56/year and additional cost of $35 this year. Jenny seconded. Motion carries.

5. Chapter Reports
   a. Student Chapter: Courtney reported that they had an end of the year wrap up. The student chapter attempted elections, but there was not a great turn out. They are waiting until next school year to do elections. Also, they had a movie night with “Diving Bell and the Butterfly”. The VR Club could have an end of the year report added to the newsletter.

Next Meeting:
Friday, June 10th, 1-3pm. The rest of the year meetings will be discussed in June.

6. Adjourn at 3:15pm.