WRA Board Meeting

February 10, 2012
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

“I have found it advisable not to give too much heed to what people say when I am trying to accomplish something of consequence. Invariably they proclaim it can't be done. I deem that the very best time to make the effort.” Calvin Coolidge

1. Call to Order:
   a. Welcome and Introductions: The following board members were present: DeLeana Strohl, Deb Henderson-Guenther, Cayte Anderson, Erik Martin, Jenny Neugart, Brett Martinsen, Mark Poffinbarger, Utina Malnourie, Amy Thomson. Kyle Kleist, Colleen Gonzalez, Betty Reinke, John Lui, and Dennis Carriere were not able to attend.
   b. Approval of agenda. Motion by DeLeana to approve the agenda. Erik seconded. Motion passed.
   c. Secretary’s report: Amy has been collecting contact information for everyone and will be contacting those she is still missing. No changes were requested from the January minutes.
   d. Treasurer’s report: DeLeana has access to the WRA accounts now and gave an up to date report on accounts. A running total on the yearly budget was also shared.

2. Old Business:
   a. Chair Position Updates: Kyle Kleist has agreed to the Legislation Chair. Colleen Gonzalez has agreed to take the Program Chair.
   b. Survival Coalition Membership Status: Deb has not heard a response from the board. She will follow up in a few days and will update the WRA board on what she learns.
   c. PayPal: DeLeana has been doing research on using PayPal for trainings. We have an WRA account. There are some very detailed choices on PayPal. Erik will send
the user guide to DeLeana. DeLeana, Mark and Erik will work on this and report back to the board via googlegroups email.

d. Collaboration with DVR on training: Deb has followed up with DVR and the collaboration is still in process. Please share culture of poverty ideas for speakers with Deb. Stephanie Herb, from DVR may be helpful. DeLeana has a contact for trainings for Hmong culture.

Cayte mentioned that SVRI is also interested in offering a discount to WRA members on their online trainings. They may also pursue having NRA members having a discount.

New Business:

a. Student Scholarship Update: Joint scholarship opportunities for WRA/WRCEA. The announcement went out last week and they are due March 2nd. The amount is the same for each scholarship. There is a stipend to cover costs to attend the conference in April. Erik will be redacting the applications of identifying info and school information (Stout or Madison). Deb, Utina, and DeLeana will be reviewing the applications.

b. Student Poster Presentation Update: We have been asked to do this again. An announcement went out for this and the deadline was 2/3/12. There were 6 submissions and they are being reviewed by John Lui, Thomas Cook and Deb. All did request scholarship funding as well. Some may also receive funds from Stout, so those without other funds will be considered first for WRA scholarships. Deb may reach out to UW-Madison Rehab Psych department later this year as well to have a better connection with this campus.

Cayte shared a professional format for the posters with DeLeana and handouts will also be needed for each poster.

c. Government and Rehabilitation Leadership Nominations: An announcement went out for nominations.

d. WRA Conference Exhibit Table: Do we want one this year? If yes, Weds. 7:30-5:30pm. There is no cost. Mark P. is interested in coordinating the table and will be requesting volunteers. Jim Hill and Dennis Carriere may be interested in helping as well. Deb will set up the table Tuesday night, and then others will be asked to “man” the table Weds.

e. General Membership meeting: DVR is only supporting attendance for Wednesday. Wednesday, April 11, 5:30-6:30pm is the time the board agreed upon. Refreshments will be served.
f. Door Prizes for Conference: Board members can contribute door prizes if interested. If not attending, give it to Deb.

g. Conference Sponsorship: Still looking for sponsors for the conference. Deb will contact Rob Kurzweil for sponsorship. Pharmaceutical companies may be interested in providing sponsorship if sessions are offered on their new medications. Any ideas should go to Deb.

h. Article on Unification: A paper was sent out a couple weeks ago. The writer was looking for feedback. Only a few board members read it over, and Deb encourages us to read it over. Discussion on the vulnerabilities of NRA followed. This may be a future board topic.

i. Student Membership Offset: We offered this last year and the spring had a good response. When should we do this again this year? Now would likely be a good time to offer the offset. Deb will send announcement for up to 16 memberships at an offset of $25/each. Motion by DeLeana to make one announcement this spring for up to 16 students at $25/each. Seconded by Mark. Motion carried.

j. GIS Map: Deb has contacted an acquaintance to map out different networking areas around the state. DeLeana made the motion to make the GIS mapping of the membership. Mark seconded. Motion carries.

4. Committee Reports

   a. Program: Colleen not present. Deb was at the last meeting and things seem to be on track. 1 day registration is now available. 3 exhibitor scholarships are available for individuals with disabilities.

   b. Legislative: Kyle Kleist not present. DeLeana forwarded the info on to Deb. Any action from our membership is outlined in the email.

   c. Public Information: Newsletter was sent out today. The next newsletter will be due around the end of April. Cayte has offered to help Jenny and topics will be collected prior to mid-April and then be prepared for an end of April release date. SVRI students can also assist with a newsletter. Triumphs/Tribulations were very full this time and would like to see this every time. The title of the newsletter will remain the same. The newsletter was very informative and wonderful as usual!

   d. Membership: Deb did get the most recent membership list from November. We have not changed our membership up or down. 111 members.
e. Website: We are still not coming up on Google searches for others. But it does come up if you type out the entire title of WRA. There is a new and old Facebook page. Mark will check to see if he can delete the old FB page. Mark is updating the website and you can send any events to Mark to update. Not quite everyone has sent in their pictures. And JPD board listing and headshots can be added when Erik shares that info with Mark. Also, Amy uploaded past meeting minutes to the website, but they do not come up on the website. Only past agendas come up. Mark will check into this as well.

5. Chapter Reports

a. Student Chapter: Brett Martinsen is a new student member to the board. The Stout chapter is involved in a Polar Plunge event (about 12 will come). Clothing drive is in process. Deadline by mid-March. DeLeana and Brett will work on this.

b. JPD: Is interested in having a Business Leadership/Outstanding business award at the RFW/WRA conference. An announcement will be sent out soon. Amy Grotzky, DVR and/or Mr. Culver from last year’s award, could pass the award off to this year's winner.

JPD is also interested in a Green Bay area Job Coaching training. There is also interest in doing something in October for Disability Awareness month related to employment and job development. They are also looking for a student board member.

c. WRCEA: Utina was present but had left the call at this time. No report.

6. Adjourn at 2:55pm.

Submitted by Amy Thomson