

Board of Directors Meeting

July 28, 2021

3:00 – 4:00 pm

In-Person/WebEx/Conference Call

Meeting called by: Matt Hagelin



Attendees:

3:00 – 3:05 **CALL TO ORDER** Matt Hagelin, SR/WA
 Roll Call *Everyone*
 May Board Meeting Minutes Matt Hagelin, SR/WA
 • *Approved via email June 09, 2021 (1st by Brian Mielke, 2nd by Ben Barker)*

3:05 – 3:10 **TREASURER’S REPORT** Sean Lawler, SR/WA

TREASURER's REPORT	
Checking Account	\$54,219.10
Chapter Event Fund Saving Account	\$4,951.00
Gary Ostrom Memorial Fund	\$3,065.99
CD	\$11,242.04
PayPal	\$0.00
Total:	\$73,478.13

Scholarships – when do we refill the fund? Matt and Brian may have to meet to review previous meetings.

3:10 – 3:30 **OLD BUSINESS**

- College Outreach Board & Member Meeting Sean Lawler, SR/WA
- Beaver Island Brewery tentatively reserved for Monday night, October 4, 2021. \$300 rental fee for that. Bar is closed that night. Past years we’ve done drink tokens (?) Mindy said in previous years, if they spent \$500.00, the fee is waived. At the end of the night, people just made merch or growler purchases to make up to the \$500.
 - Mexican Village Taco Bar planned. \$8.50/person.
 - Sean will get the information out to professors and students.
 - Will need volunteers for the panel.
 - Brian M. and Mindy were in support of panel. General consensus was that a panel goes over well with the participants.
 - Sean added that it’s a great ice breaker as well. Carol said they have done similarly with U of Iowa.
 - They don’t want to do the event too early at the college, too much going on. Also can’t overlap the MnDOT Conf.
 - Appeal to the membership to be done by Matt to get more members to attend.
 - Penny R. motion to approve continuing college outreach as indicated on the flyer.
 - Brian M. Second.

*General discussion of past years successes/challenges.

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IRWA 2021 Conference recap

Shawn Zepper recap:

- Smaller attendance than usual.
- More intimate, more time to interact with people.
- Online Attendees: Mindy L. And Ben Barker attended online.
- Online review – they did their best, but online was less effective because of the lack of interaction.
- Most comments were online. Carol mentioned that because some of the sessions were not live, it took a few days for the sessions to be uploaded.
- Carol said everyone's paying the same fee but participants are not getting the same experience with food and interaction.
- General opinions were that it was okay, but harder.
- Mindy had a hard time because meetings are still going on, and trying to focus just on the sessions without distraction was difficult.
- Brian asked if hybrid will continue. General consensus is that it likely will continue.
- Online voting was very successful compared to the year before though – Carol.
- Craig reported there were approx. 500 people attended the Monday night event.
- Mindy said 80% of the attendees, attended the Monday night event (higher than usual).
- Golf Tourney was full.
- No report on the Silent Auction yet.

3:30 – 3:50

NEW BUSINESS

MN DOT Conference

Penny Rolf, SR/WA

- Sept. 29th – Oct. 1st.
- 250-300 people limit.
- Opening up for IRWA Social Hour – going to need sponsors.
- No alcohol in the conference center, but can go across the street to the Marina.
- Vendor Booths allowed also.
- Penny will reach out to get the food and drink sponsored.
- IRWA will have their own booth, volunteers will be needed to staff the booth.
- Registration is open.
- They will be mindful of social distancing.

Fall Forum

Matt Hagelin, SR/WA

- Carol M. Omaha – Oct 17th and 18th.
- Hotel is Hilton Garden Inn – block of rooms reserved.
- Class 213 – October 19th.
- Will need to be mindful of voting as Matt H. will not be in attendance.
- IEC/IGC was brought up by Dan, Carol indicated those meetings will be mid-September.

Member/sponsor survey

Matt Hagelin, SR/WA

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- Proposal to send out a survey to membership to ask what brings value to the membership from Chapter 20.
- What can we do to increase engagement.
- Carefully crafted questions.
- Open Discussion.
 - Split into different areas – structure – meetings vs. classes vs. education? (Penny)
 - Want it to be concise. (Matt)
 - We've tried it in the past just regarding education. Challenge is getting responses. (Mindy)
 - Shawn suggested incentives – free membership, free class, free lunch.
 - Can we do anonymous?
 - Good feedback preferred – comment for \$10.00 (Andy)

3:50 – 4:00

Annual Dues Structure

Matt Hagelin, SR/WA

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SERVICE COMMITTEES

Nominations & Elections

Brian Mielke, SR/WA

- Going to need more people.

Professional Development

Sean Lawler, SR/WA

- Dan Leshner -recertified
- Todd Oschner – new SR/WA

Ethics

Ben Tozer

Education

Shawn Zepper

- Courses to pick up later this fall.
- Mindy L. – HQ is pushing for a 3 year education plan, but it's difficult.
- Matt H. – suggested we ask membership as part of the survey what courses they need for their certifications.
- Penny R. – suggested packaging courses as Tim Drennan has done before. Maybe use some checking account funds to off set even more.
- Brent R. – suggested we package geographically as well – maybe have classes in a row in the same spot to save travel time/money.
- Matt H. – suggested a need for packages for new employees and/or new employers.

Communications & Marketing

Brent Rolf

- No update.

Membership

Ben Barker, SR/WA

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INDUSTRY COMMITTEES

Electric & Utilities

Craig Knudsen, SR/WA, R/W-EC, R/W-NAC

Local Public Agencies

Jason Alt

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Oil & Gas Pipeline

Andy Girga

- General discussion of the use of a picture in the newsletter. Ben Tozer had handled it.

Transportation

Vacant

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

Asset Management

Sean Lawler, SR/WA

Environmental

Craig Knudsen, SR/WA, R/W-EC, R/W-NAC

Relocation

Penny Rolf, SR/WA

- Penny R. – Great, well-received courses at the San Antonio Conference. Relocation has now been switched back to a Committee instead of a Community of Practice.

Surveying & Engineering

Jerry Ripley

Valuation

Vacant

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- General discussion regarding what to do with 2020 sponsors, given that the sponsors did not get much value from their investment. General consensus was to keep the same sponsors for this year as well – only 4 chapter meetings left at this point.
- General discussion of Covid 19 money. General consensus was to re-brand it and use for classes. Maybe add an extra event to a course package.
- General discussion of possibilities of going after the 2025 Conference. General consensus is to Ask membership as part of the survey if they support it and if they are willing to help.

Motion to Adjourn by: Matt Hagelin

Seconded by: Shawn Zepper

Minutes Approved: _____