

WCMEA BOD MEETING MINUTES

OCTOBER 22, 2017

Osthoff Resort- Elkhart Lake

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Angela Hinze at 1659 hours.

ATTENDANCE: An attendance sheet was passed. Those members signed in as attending: Jen Schroeter (Kenosha County), Joyce Kratz (ATSF), Chris Nehring (Sheboygan County), Joe Morovits (Crawford County), Rory Groessl (Kewaunee County), Angela Hinze (Columbia County), Dr. Agnieszka Rogalska (Dane County), PJ Schoebel (Dodge County), Jessica Blahnik (Marathon County), Barry Irmen (Dane County), Amanda Thoma (Green Lake County), Patty Schachtner (St. Croix County), Scott Rifleman (Portage County), and Paul Matlin (Portage County).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 8, 2017 BOD MEETING: Minutes are not available at this time for approval. President Angela Hinze suggests that the minutes could be distributed at a later date via email for approval. Joe Morovits makes a motion to read/approve minutes via email at a later time. PJ Schoebel seconds. There is no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Angela Hinze reports that she had represented the WCMEA at the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Annual Conference. She had a booth with a popcorn giveaway. She provided education on the roles/responsibilities of the C/ME and the proposed legislation. Angela explained that the lack of understanding in the field of medicolegal death investigation across the state is concerning.

Angela had worked on organizing and executing the Opioid Summit in August 2017. The Summit was a success with approximately 150 attendees. The audience evenly represented law enforcement and C/MEs. Though future funding is not guaranteed, there is a possibility of another Summit. Vital Records might vie for the grant in 2018, and DCI has expressed interest in offering funding.

Angela expresses her gratitude to the BOD for the hard work throughout the year, and offered concerns regarding the proposed training legislation. Further discussion regarding the legislation is deferred until the legislative update.

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Amanda Thoma reports that she has been busy putting together this conference. She states that 72 attendees have registered. The conference has been approved for 17.5 credit hours by ABMDI. Amanda states that she will be in attendance for only the first day of the conference, and looks for assistance at the registration table for the remaining two days. She reports that the folders are ready to be put together, and looks for volunteers to assist in organizing the folders following the meeting.

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT: PJ Schoebel reports that the membership renewals had gone out late; however, most have been returned as of today's date. He stated that the WCMEA has 220 membership renewals so far for 2017-2018. He explained that he is working on assisting Jen Schroeter with email address updates. He reports that he continues to run into frustration with some counties and regaining interest in membership.

There is discussion regarding the issues at hand, and PJ reports that some counties feel as though the WCMEA is no longer relevant – the WCMEA does not provide educational needs, or the needs are being met elsewhere (particularly those that border MN). Dr. Rogalska offers the suggestion of possibly offering online training for an adjusted fee. Potential issues were identified (i.e. payment, website capabilities, coordinating with ABMDI for continuing education credits, etc.) The discussion was tabled for a later date.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Kalynn Podoski is not present (absence excused). Angela reports that there have been computer issues, which Kalynn is working on. Minutes from the prior meeting will be made available for review at a later time.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rory Groessl provides an account summary which indicates the beginning balance as of July 1, 2017 is \$39455.17. Rory reports that because the membership renewals had gone out late, the renewal revenue and the current fiscal year correlate. He states that the conference expenses will be deducted following the event. He reports that the lobbyist is costing the WCMEA \$12,000/year at the current rate. He expresses concerns regarding the lobbyist expenses and the uncertainty of the legislation being passed.

Rory indicates that conference registrations were up significantly since the last conference, and attributes the early-bird registration as the reason. He states that 90% of the registrations were early-bird. He recognized that there were only two one-day conference registrations as well, which is unusual.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS REPORT: Joe Morovits has nothing to report.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE REPORT: Patty Schachtner has nothing to report.

PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jen Schroeter reports that at the last BOD meeting, it was decided that the WCMEA conferences would be returning to January/June. She states that she has worked on securing a conference venue for January and June 2018. She explains that the June 2018 booking agreement has been signed. The June Conference will be held June 11-13, 2018 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. She states that the January 2018 booking agreement has not yet been signed, as there was further discussion needed regarding the possibility of postponing the January Conference until 2019.

Jen also reports that she has been working on vendor registrations for this conference, and assisted in the Opioid Summit as needed.

TRUSTEE REPORTS: Scott Rifleman, Jessica Blahnik and Dr. Rogalska have nothing to report.

OFFICER REPORTS: Joe Morovits makes motion to accept officer reports. PJ Schoebel seconds. There is no further discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE: Lobbyist Chris Lenzendorf is contacted via telephone and provides a report via conference call.

Chris reports that he is hopeful that there will be a committee meeting in the next couple of weeks where he will find out whether or not the training bill will get a hearing. He states that there had been some internal issues (within WCMEA membership) that have since been worked out. He explains that any external issues (outside of WCMEA membership) can be managed at a hearing. He states that it is imperative to get on the hearing schedule. Chris further states that the senate and assembly “hate each other”; however, there are no issues with the bill itself. He reports that the Sands family is once again willing to testify.

Barry offers the suggestion of a media push prior to a hearing. Barry explains that in the recent past, there had been a family who had used the media regarding separate legislation. The legislation passed without incident. Chris feels that using the media could be beneficial. He is willing to reach out to the Sands family to gauge their willingness to participate. He explains that he would work on coaching the family with a prepared statement prior to speaking to the media.

Chris reports that, regarding the “Baby Box” legislation, there is no support.

Chris reports that there is cremation legislation which is before the same committee as the WCMEA training bill. Chris states that the legislation is benign, and recommends that the WCMEA supports the legislation. He explains that by offering support for the legislation, the WCMEA looks good, which would only help in getting the training bill/legislation passed.

There is no further discussion regarding legislation, and no further updates from other committee members. Conference call is ended.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Barry Irmen states that website software is available from the current vendor. The software will improve the website design and capabilities. He explains that there will still be the option for secure, members-only access if desired. He states that the cost of the software is roughly \$1875.

Angels states that the BOD had previously voted, and approved spending the necessary money on website improvements. Barry will work on moving forward with the software purchase and implementation.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Jen Schroeter reports that the newsletter is behind schedule. There will be only two issues for 2017. She explains that she has received information from Donate Life to include in the next issue, as well as updates from the Opioid Summit and this conference. She welcomes interesting cases or submissions from other counties/agencies. She also encourages anyone with photos from past or future WCMEA events to be shared so they can be included. Paul Matlin offers to assist with future newsletters.

MERCHANDISE COMMITTEE: Joe Morovits reports that there will be no new merchandise for this conference. Instead, there will be a “Fire Sale” in an attempt to sell current merchandise.

Instead of books to offer as raffle prizes each day, the raffle winners will select items from the WCMEA merchandise table.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: PJ Schoebel makes a motion to accept committee reports. Dr. Rogalska seconds. There is no further discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: It was decided at the last BOD meeting to change the conference training format in an attempt to boost attendance. The format will return to January/June conferences instead of April/October. Angela states that there had been concerns raised regarding the possibility of a January 2018 conference; there will be a new 1st Vice President and too little time to put together a quality program.

It is realized that with the change in the conference format/timing, the 2017-2018 BOD terms will be affected. Because the officer terms are one-year (annual meeting to annual meeting), the 2017-2018 term will be shortened. The next BOD terms would run until the annual meeting in June.

PJ Schoebel makes a motion to post-pone the January conference until January 2019, and for the 2017-2018 BOD Officer terms to begin after the Tuesday elections and end in June at the annual meeting. Dr. Rogalska seconds. Further discussion identifies the need to address the membership at the annual meeting on Tuesday regarding these changes. Motion passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: Elections will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. The nominee for each officer position is running unopposed. It is recognized that membership participation in the election and voting process is low. Four absentee ballots have been submitted.

PJ Schoebel suggests that the voting/election process should be revisited. He recognizes that absentee voting is not exercised as initially anticipated, and the voting process is tedious and time consuming. Due to the enormity of the task in changing the WCMEA Constitution, the election discussion is tabled for future consideration.

ADJOURN: PJ Schoebel makes a motion to adjourn. Dr. Rogalska seconds. There is no further discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schroeter

WCMEA Past-President (filling in for Secretary Kalynn Podoski)