

WISCONSIN CORONER'S AND MEDICAL EXAMINER'S ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

January 10, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Grand Lodge by Stoney Creek, Rothschild, WI

===APPROVED===

An attendance sheet was passed: Jenifer Keach (Rock), Peggy Peterson (State of Wisconsin), Lou Brady (Juneau), Richard Schleifer (Clark), Tom Miller (Walworth), Angela Hinze (Columbia), P.J. Schoebel (Dodge), Marc Playman (IT Committee Chair), Robert Kulhanek (Sheboygan), Casey Swetlik (St. Croix), Laura Hagene (RTI Donor Services), Al Klimek (Brown), Joe Morovits (Crawford), Scott Rifleman (Portage), Ray Wosepka (Dane), Jon Hagen (Outagamie).

Officers missing: Mike Jesse (Shawano), trustee; Traci Enland (Oneida/Forest), trustee. Both unexcused.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Jenifer Keach at 1916 hours.

II. Approval of minutes from September 28, 2009 Board of Directors meeting. Motion made by Klimek/Rifleman. Passed unanimously.

III. President's Report: Jenifer Keach

- A. Medicolegal Death Investigators Week. Jenifer informed the group that the 4th week in October has been designated as Medicolegal Death Investigator's week. Jenifer passed around a plaque noting the achievement.
- B. Electronic filing meeting in Madison. Jenifer and Peggy Peterson explained the crux of the meeting to the group.
- C. BOD retreat. Jenifer thanked those who participated in the retreat, which was held at Green Lake in September.
- D. Response to Manitowoc County. Recently, Manitowoc County coroner Curt Green was in the news regarding comments made by a county board supervisor. On behalf of the WCMEA, Jenifer did write a letter of support to Curt in his role. A copy of that letter is included in the 2009 Secretary's notebook.

President Keach's report was accepted on a voice vote, after a motion (Hagen/Kulhanek).

IV. First Vice President's Report: Angela Hinze

- A. January 2010 Conference Update: Approximately 70 people have signed up for the conference. Unfortunately, the classes will be held at the Stoney Creek Inn, which is a short distance from the Cedar Creek Lodge.

Cedar Creek is being renovated, and their conference rooms are not yet ready to be used. A shuttle has been arranged to transport folks between locations. Dr. Huntington will receive the 1st “John Stanley Award.” Dr. Huntington is speaking on Tuesday and will receive the award at lunch. Conference data is on a jump drive.

B. Education Committee Report

1. Educational Opportunities
2. ABMDI testing: ABMDI is currently evaluating their testing process, including remote testing locations. No ABMDI testing will be offered at this conference.

Motion by Schoebel/Hagen to accept Angela’s report.

IV. Second Vice President’s Report: Lou Brady.

- A. Membership Committee report: Lou offered thanks to Amanda Achterberg (Columbia) for all of her data entry efforts. Lou reported Wisconsin has 358 death investigators. WCMEA has 216 paid members. 62 of 72 counties are members of the WCMEA. At one time recently, we did have 71/72 counties as members. The standard question people ask is “What do we get for our money? What is the advantage of being a member of the WCMEA?”**

Lou’s report was accepted on a voice vote, after a motion (Klimek/Rifleman).

V. Secretary’s Report: Jon Hagen. Jon reported that he sends out the meeting minutes electronically shortly after the meetings, and asked that people review them promptly so that the notes are accurate. Jon also showed those in attendance the John Stanley Award.

Jon’s report was accepted on a voice vote, after a motion (Klimek/Brady).

VI. Treasurer’s Report: Robert Kulhanek.

- A. Finance Committee Report. Bob submitted a written financial report, which is attached to these minutes.**

Bob’s report was accepted by voice vote, after a motion (Schoebel/Klimek).

VII. Sergeant-at-Arms Report: P.J. Schoebel

- A. Merchandise Committee Report: P.J. noted that the sales of WCMEA merchandise on the website is non-existent and after discussion, will be discontinued. We still have some “old merchandise” which is being sold at blowout prices. We will continue to try to get rid of that stuff, and will limit ourselves to a limited quantity of new merchandise. Discussion was heard about choosing a vendor who will work with us on a low-volume basis. The BOD did approve that P.J. can spend up to \$3000 for WCMEA merchandise for the summer conference.**

P.J.’s report was accepted on a voice vote, after a motion (Kulhanek/Keach).

VIII. Member-at-Large Report: Richard Schleifer.

Richard reported he remains concerned about poor conference attendance and that people are missing out on wonderful educational opportunities. He has called individuals to discuss them attending conferences and becoming active WCMEA members/participants, and will continue to do so.

Richard's report was accepted on a voice vote, after a motion (Hagen/Hinze).

IX. Legislative Committee Report: Scott Rifleman.

A. Update on 979 Revision Legislation. Scott discussed the bill, and some proposed verbiage changes. An ongoing process, Scott is working with Amy Sue Vruwink.

B. Other legislation affecting MLDI. Scott mentioned Assembly Bill 644 and concerns that C/ME are not covered. He learned that bill is for "Protective Services." Discussion was also heard about "First Person Consent" for organ donations. Martha Mallon of MTF will be speaking at this conference about this. Discussion was heard about consulting the Wheeler Report to keep us aware of pending legislation that may be of interest to the WCMEA.

Scott's report was accepted on a voice vote, after a motion (Hinze/Keach).

X. Information/Technology Report: Marc Playman.

Marc has updated the WCMEA website, which has proven to be faster and more user-friendly. He said there about 15,000 hits a month on the site, with the most from Wisconsin and Virginia. Upcoming conferences and educational offerings are the most viewed. People are happy with the great job Marc continues to do with keeping the website up-to-date, etc.

Marc's report was accepted on a voice vote (Kulhanek/Klimek).

XI. Newsletter Committee Report

Neither Jennifer Schroeter nor Patricia Plungis were at the meeting. Jon mentioned what a great job they are doing with THE EXAMINER and that people should pass along their thanks and positive comments to both. Also, Jon reported that they would love to receive articles from the membership.

XII. Trustee Reports

A. One-year trustee: Unexcused.

B. Two-year trustee: Unexcused.

C. Three year trustee: Al Klimek. Al discussed with the Board about replacing the two trustees who have missed the last several meetings

(Mike Jesse and Traci England). President Keach will act on replacing these two individuals. Al has spoken to Traci, who is indifferent. Al has made several attempts to contact to Mike Jesse, without success.

XIII. Old Business

- A. Attendance of Board Members at BOD meetings:** Addressed above.
- B. John Stanley award:** The first award will be presented at this conference to Dr. Robert Huntington, a recently retired forensic pathologist, for his contributions to the field of death investigation. Official guidelines for presentation of the Stanley award need to be formally approved, but the intent is that this award be given only to the “best of the best.” Simple longevity is not considered to qualify a person for this award.
- C. Tax status:** Robert Kulhanek reported that we now finally have a correct FEIN number. We are a 501c6 status. The WCMEA paid \$529 in state sales tax last year; discussion about our “non-profit” tax status and if we should seek “tax exempt” status? A motion was made (Rifleman/Brady) to allow Bob up to \$1000 to explore our options with a tax attorney (passed on a voice vote). Tom Miller said his wife works with an attorney, and he will explore obtaining some free advice.
- D. Executive Secretary position:** At the request of President Keach, this will be tabled until the spring BOD meeting.

XIV. New Business

- A. Approval of draft of Constitution and Bylaws:** At the request of President Keach, this will be tabled until the spring BOD meeting.
- B. Approval of Appendices to Constitution:** After much discussion, it was decided that this will be the duty of the subcommittee to decide. The feeling is that if anything, there should be guidelines only, not policies.
- C. Approval of BlueboardIT to provide online training for the WCMEA:** Right now, this is in flux, as there is no money available for training. We will have to wait and see if there are any legislative changes that would make money available.

XV. Announcements:

- Sheboygan County has an autopsy table available. If anyone is interested, contact the Sheboygan County Coroner’s office.
- Discussion about moving the winter conference out of Wausau. The general feeling was that it is time to “move the conference around” as the summer conference is done.
- Reminder that we hope to move the conference from a summer/winter format to a spring/fall format.
- Jenifer will present a couple of dates for consideration for the spring BOD meeting, which she will send out via email. That meeting will be held at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells.
- The 2010 Summer Conference will be held June 6-9 at Chula Vista, Wisconsin Dells. Columbia County is the host county.

- **The State Hygiene Lab has offered free H1N1 testing kits to death investigators.**

XVI. Adjournment: A motion was made (Schoebel/Klimek) to adjourn the meeting at 2140. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jon K. Hagen, RN, BSN, D-ABMDI
Secretary**