

Wisconsin Coroners and Medical Examiners Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells
Friday, April 9, 2010

Members present: Jenifer Keach (Rock), Jon Hagen (Outagamie), Dr. Doug Kelley (Fond du Lac), Barry Irman (Dane), Lou Brady (Juneau), Amanda Achterberg (Columbia), Richard Schleifer (Clark), P.J. Schoebel (Dodge), Robert Kulhanek (Sheboygan), Scott Rifleman (Portage), Al Klimek (Brown), John Larson (Marathon), Angela Hinze (Columbia). A sign in sheet was passed.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Jenifer Keach at 1815 hours.

II. Approval of Agenda: A motion was made to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting (Hagen, Kelley). Passed unanimously.

III. Approval of minutes from January, 2010 Board of Directors meeting: Some minor errors were pointed out and the changes were made, then a motion was made to approve the minutes (Kulhanek, Klimek); passed unanimously.

IV. President's Report (Jenifer Keach): are notes kept on Internet discussions? Is this a quorum? Is this just discussion? A good way to "pre-discuss" items before the meeting, hopefully will shorten the actual meetings. Discussion that members are thinking the Annual Meeting is too long, and the internet is a good way to pre-educate them on matters to be discussed. Dr. Kelley feels that the BOD is responsible to carry out the general business of the Association, as they have been elected by the membership to represent them. When using the Internet, remember to maintain professionalism.

V. 1st Vice-President's Report (Angela Hinze): one speaker cancelled for the conference, she is looking for a replacement. She feels that "someone" should be in charge of education, instead of it being assigned to a specific officer. She feels this would maintain continuity when organizing conferences, maintain contact with speakers, topics, etc. She needs a credit card to make conference planning easier. She has been talking with DOJ to do three day C/ME death investigation courses, instead of a two week school. This is in addition to our two conferences. Columbia County can host it, up to 45 people. WCMEA would cover the hotel costs for the trainers; individuals would pay to attend. There is a concern that this would affect WCMEA conference attendance, maybe do this to replace one of our conferences every other year. Discussion was held about upcoming topics, interest in mass fatality situations, working with Emergency Government and on setting up meeting dates up to a year in advance. For now, the setting of dates will be left until after a new Board is elected in June. Angela is exploring the options of offering ABMDI testing at our conferences.

VI. 2nd Vice-President's Report (Lou Brady): See Lou's written report (attached) concerning membership. The biggest question remains "What do I get for my money?"

Some counties claim they are not members for “budget reasons.” Discussion was heard about offering free membership with a conference registration. Suggestion to offer new members who attend the proposed new DOJ training, to offer them a one time, one year free membership. Discussion was heard about the WCMEA with Legislative support. Lou will draft a letter to the 10 counties that are not currently members, reminding them of the benefits of membership. The counties not currently members are: Bayfield, Douglas, Dunn, Jackson, Vilas, Langlade, Marinette, Shawano, Taylor and Waushara. Other ideas discussed were bringing in a well-known conference speaker, decreasing the cost of conferences, and having raffle giveaways.

VII. Secretary’s Report (Jon Hagen): Jon continues to email BOD minutes as soon as possible after the meetings, so they can be reviewed promptly.

VIII. Treasurer’s Report (Robert Kulhanek): Please see his submitted written report (attached). Balance as of March 31, 2010 is \$78,640.30. Profit from the January conference is currently \$11,195.33, with two outstanding registration fees and one outstanding merchandise purchase. January 2010 conference attendance: Monday 61, Tuesday 73, Wednesday 59. Rooms at the host hotel: Sunday 43, Monday 48, Tuesday 41, for a total of 132 room nights. Bob thanked Amanda for her help. Jon thanked Bob for his attention to detail in handling the funds of the Association.

IX. Sergeant-at-Arms Report (P.J. Schoebel): See P.J.’s written inventory of merchandise report, attached to these minutes. Discussion was heard of getting rid of the very old merchandise. P.J. has purchased some new items for the summer conference.

X. Member-at-Large Report (Richard Schleifer): He has been talking to other counties about the benefits of membership. He did pass the AMBDI test, congratulations to Richard. Mike Quinn resigned as Jackson County coroner; Debra Olson is the interim replacement.

XI. Legislative Committee Report (Scott Rifleman): Scott and Al met with representatives of the Wisconsin Hospitals Association today. They felt the meeting was very productive, and that more conversation needs to take place so the two groups fully understand each other. Scott will submit a written report. Scott and Al verbally summarized the meeting for the Board. Hopefully the WHA will support the 979 legislation. Goals are (1) to clean up language on 979 and submit it by January 1, 2011, (2) establish a Board to oversee the 979 statute, (3) establish and implement training standards.

XII. Information/Technology Report: Marc Playman was not present at the meeting. Marc has told Jenifer that he is no longer interested in being the WCMEA webmaster; Jenifer brought up hiring a professional to do this task. A motion was made (Larson/Kelley) to have Jenifer explore the option of hiring a professional firm to perform this service.

XIII. Newsletter Committee Report: Neither Jennifer Schroeter or Patricia Plungis were at the meeting. Jon told the group that he has been in recent contact with them. The newsletter had already gone to the printer, and this was before the death of Ray Wosepka (Dane). As always, they welcome items submitted for consideration of publication.

XIV. One Year Trustee Report (John Larson): John had nothing specific to report, but offered good discussion points on many issues.

Two Year Trustee Report: Mike Jesse is no longer active in the Association, and has not attended any recent meetings. Efforts to reach Mike have not been successful. Barry Irman was appointed by Jenifer to fill this term. Barry has been appointed interim coroner in Dane County, after the recent death of Ray Wosepka. Ray had been appointed by Gov. Doyle last fall after John Stanley died.

Three Year Trustee Report (Al Klimek): Al had nothing specific to report, but offered good discussion points on many issues.

XV. Old Business: John Stanley Award. Criteria discussed (attached). The Board agreed that all votes for nominees will be on a paper ballot.

Tax status: Bob reported we are still a 501C6, not tax exempt. Bob is unsure if we want to be tax exempt. IRS charges over \$800 to apply for 501C3 status. Bob has people checking on the wisdom of doing this, but they have not gotten back to Bob yet.

XVI. New Business: The June BOD meeting will be held on Sunday, June 6 at 1800 hours, at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. Columbia County is the host for this conference. The Annual Meeting of the membership will be held on Tuesday afternoon, June 8, starting at 1430 hours. The banquet will be Tuesday night.

BOD hotel and travel costs for meeting attendance: Discussion about the WCMEA paying for hotel and travel costs, instead of individual counties footing the bill. A motion to table the discussion (Larson/Schleifer) until Dr. Kelley could be present, as this was originally his idea; Dr. Kelley had to leave the meeting early and unexpectedly due to a family emergency.

Approval of draft of Constitution and Bylaws: Discussion was heard about keeping one-year terms, as opposed to the proposed two-year terms. People can be re-elected to any office (except the trustees) (article ii, Section 3, page 2). A motion (Larson/ Schoebel) to keep the one year terms (striking the sentence to change to two year terms). Discussion of people having a learning period and then their term ends. A voice vote was taken, tied 5-5 with one abstention, so it will remain as written (two year terms).

Discussion was heard regarding payment for the newsletter and webmaster, as per the WCMEA constitution. The two people doing the newsletter are not paid now, and during this meeting, President Keach was given permission to research hiring a webmaster. Currently, Marc Playman is not being paid to be the webmaster.

A motion was made (Klimek/Rifleman) to accept the drafted Constitution and bylaws with recommended changes for presentation to the membership at the June meeting. Passed unanimously.

A motion was made to make Appendix A to be article 5 of the constitution, and to renumber current article 5 to article 6. (Schoebel/Hinze). Passed unanimously.

Jon Hagen nominated Ray Wosepka for the John Stanley Award. Discussion was heard. A motion was made to table (Klimek/Schoebel) the nomination. The motion was withdrawn after discussion. A motion was made (Larson/Brady) to vote on the nomination of Ray Wosepka for the John Stanley Award. All Board members voted in writing and the vote was unanimous. Ray Wosepka will be awarded at the June meeting posthumously. Barry Irmen will notify Ray's wife. Jon Hagen will order the award.

Transfer of memberships: A motion was made (Larson/Schleifer) that memberships are not transferable. If a member transfers counties, their personal membership follows them and can't be transferred to anyone else.

Scholarship rules and application forms: A scholarship winner wanted to buy books instead of attending a conference; this was denied. A motion was made (Larson/Schleifer) to pay for conference registration only.

XVII. New Announcements: None.

XVIII. Adjournment: A motion was made (Larson/Klimek) to adjourn at 2148 hours. Passed unanimously and enthusiastically!

Respectfully submitted,

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