

WCMEA BOD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 16, 2023

Zoom Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Agnieszka Rogalska at 1906 hours.

ATTENDANCE: Jen Schroeter (Kenosha County), Lynn Johnson (Dunn/Eau Claire County), Dr. Agnieszka Rogalska (Dane County), Brooke Kaat (Dodge County), Rory Groessl (Kewaunee County), Joe Morovits (Crawford County), PJ Schoebel (Dodge County), Dr. P. Douglas Kelley (Milwaukee County).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 11, 2022 BOD MEETING: Minutes previously reviewed. Joe Morovits makes a motion to approve minutes. PJ Schoebel seconds. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

OFFICER REPORTS:

PRESIDENT: Dr. Rogalska has nothing to report.

1st VP: Crystal Schaub reports that she has been working on conference planning. Defers remaining report to Education Committee.

2nd VP: Brooke Kaat has nothing to report. She states that she just returned from maternity leave and is getting back into the swing of things. She indicates that she will work with Jen Schroeter and Rory Groessl on updating the email list. Rory explains that he prefers the membership renewal process to begin in June to stay within the WCMEA fiscal year. Brooke states that she will review the process and go from there.

SECRETARY: Jen Schroeter states that she has been working with Crystal Schaub on conference planning. Further reporting deferred to Education Committee.

TREASURER: Rory Groessl states that he will provide a copy of the spreadsheet to review. Rory reports that the October 2022 Conference made a profit of ~10K. He informs the BOD that membership renewals for the current fiscal year have brought in ~9K. He explains that there have been minimal expenses thus far, including insurance renewal. He indicates that the WCMEA is in good shape.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Joe Morovits defers to Merchandise Committee.

MEMBER AT LARGE: Tom Renz is absent.

3-YEAR TRUSTEE: PJ Schoebel defers to Legislative Committee.

2-YEAR TRUSTEE: Lynn Johnson reports that he has been working on updating the C/ME contact list and working on the newsletter.

1-YEAR TRUSTEE: Marcie Rosas is absent.

PAST PRESIDENT: Dr. P. Doug Kelley has nothing to report.

Rory Groessl makes a motion to accept the officer reports. Joe Morovits seconds. There is no further discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATIVE: PJ Schoebel reports that he has been looking into the cremation bill previously shared by Dr. Rogalska. He indicates that the funeral directors association brought the bill forward to Dr. Lynda Biedrzycki (Waukesha County) who shared with the WCMEA. He assures the BOD that the bill has not been assigned a number, and is not currently moving through any legislative process. He states that there is nothing of grave concern in the bill that would have any significant impact for C/ME offices. He indicates that the bill likely stems from personal conflict between specific funeral director(s) and respective C/ME office(s).

Dr. Rogalska indicates that she had planned to send a response to the FDA lobbyist by 5/19/2023, and looked for suggested feedback from the BOD. The BOD discussed at length and felt that more information is needed from the FDA regarding specific concerns and the origin of the bill before feedback would be shared.

EDUCATION: Jen Schroeter reports that the conference line-up has been established and ABMDI submission had been completed. She explains that a new updated menu was provided by the venue, and is currently being reviewed by her and Crystal to start working on selections for meals and breaks. She indicates that the Wisconsin Dells Visitors Bureau will once again be providing name tags and welcome bags. She states that she and Crystal are working on folder set up and will split the bulk printing prior to the conference. Jen acknowledges receiving possible committee volunteers. These individuals will be contacted for assistance with the 2023 and 2024 conferences as needed.

NEWSLETTER: Jen Schroeter reports that she is working with Lynn Johnson and Katy Luedtke (Dane County) on getting the newsletter back on track. She explains that the first quarter issue was not done due to conference planning; however, the remaining issues should be on target with the first issue in June. She states that Katy is working on reaching out to Dr. LeGros and Dr. Douglas to write introduction pieces. She indicates that Lynn Johnson is working on updating the mailing list, so that the newsletter can be mailed to each C/ME office in hopes of reaching those who are not on the email list. She states that Lynn is also putting together interesting deaths. Jen explains that there have been some retirements that can be featured, and hopes to have Donate Life submit something as well. Rory Groessl reports that Paul Mattlin from Portage County died recently, and his obituary was shared with Jen. Jen states that Paul will be acknowledged in the newsletter as well, as he was known and liked by many.

TIME COALITION: Dr. Rogalska inquires as to whether or not additional people would be needed on this committee. Jen Schroeter states that two committee members should be sufficient. She explains that so far, the coalition requires attendance to the quarterly meetings. She informs the BOD that only two unexcused absences are allowed before membership status is

questioned. She apologizes to the BOD and reports that the first meeting for 2023 was an unexcused absence; however, the remaining meetings would be attended. Jen explains that she does see value in continuing membership, as the coalition focuses on first responder safety. She suggests considering a presentation from the coalition at a future training conference.

MERCHANDISE: Joe Morovits reports that he is currently going through the current merchandise to get a handle on what inventory remains. Joe states that he would like ideas on clothing/merchandise for the upcoming conference. There is discussion regarding items that have been popular at prior conferences. It was suggested that simple cotton T-shirts, long-sleeved T-shirts, and sweatpants be considered. Joe indicates that there is no catalog; however, the vendor should be able to supply any request. He asks that any specific requests be provided to him by 5/23/2023 to allow ample time to order.

Rory Groessl makes a motion to allow Joe Morovits to spend up to \$1000 on merchandise/apparel for the June Conference. PJ Schoebel seconds. There is no further discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

Rory Groessl makes a motion to accept the committee reports. Joe Morovits seconds. There is no further discussion. The motion passes with unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rory Groessl reports that Lynn Johnson has been added to the WCMEA checking account.

NEW BUSINESS:

Conference giveaways for the conference were discussed by the BOD. Charging banks, mugs, portfolios, etc. have been popular items in the past. Dr. Rogalska suggested post-it note blocks, or travel mugs. There was discussion on the current inventory of charging banks, and whether or not they still work. Joe Morovits will check into these items. Dr. Rogalska and Rory Groessl state that past orders had been made via 4Imprint. Dr. Rogalska explains that she will see what she can find and share with the BOD.

Jen Schroeter asks about book raffles. She states that the WCMEA had given away the last of the previously donated books at the October 2022 conference. She suggests that the BOD consider purchasing new books for the June Conference. She states that the WCMEA made money on the last conference, and it would be a nice way to give back to the membership. She adds that the book giveaways seem popular with the attendees, and is motivation for people to stay until the end of lectures each day. The BOD is in agreement. Lynn Johnson suggests including other items, like merchandise or in the raffle giveaways to give some variety. Dr. Rogalska makes a motion to allow up to \$500 to be spent on books for raffle giveaways. Lynn Johnson seconds. There is no further discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

Student registrations were discussed. Dr. Rogalska states that this has been discussed by the BOD on several occasions; however, no formal policy has been established regarding student attendance. Jen Schroeter states that there had been a prior conference, she believes in 2018 or so, that offered student registrations at a reduced cost. She indicates that there have been a

couple of counties that have reached out regarding possible student attendance at the June Conference. Rory Groessler believes that the BOD had made a past decision to allow student attendance if the student had been enrolled in a program pertinent to medicolegal death investigation, and had been sponsored by a county C/ME and/or school/university. PJ shares this recollection and states that he does have Marian University Students that he would like to send to the conference.

Rory Groessler makes a motion to institute a student registration rate of ½ the conference registration rate or for the cost of meals (if higher) provided the student is sponsored by an institution with a forensic focused curriculum. The sponsorship should be documented on formal letterhead from the student's advisor or mentor and submitted with the completed registration form. Joe Morovits seconds. There is no further discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the election process and newly approved language changes to the Bylaws. The BOD is in agreement that timelines have been missed and acknowledges that elections at the 2023 annual meeting are unrealistic. The BOD discusses options to move forward without having to change the Bylaws. Dr. Kelley states that, though there has been a breach of the Bylaws, the BOD can ask the membership for grace. He suggests that an email be sent to the membership explaining the upheaval that the pandemic had caused, the consequent pause of the current election, and assurance that the election process will begin in January 2024 as the WCMEA returns to normalcy. The BOD is supportive of this approach.

Rory Groessler makes a motion for the BOD to pen a letter/email to the membership to explain the extenuating circumstances and upheaval caused by COVID-19 and the consequent delay in the WCMEA elections; as well as to inform the membership of the intention to move forward with the election process in 2024 to better align with the timeframe established in the Bylaws. Dr. Kelley seconds. There is no further discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

Rory Groessler informs the BOD that he has treasurers' records since the inception of the WCMEA. He indicates that some records have historical value; however, some could be destroyed. He looks to the BOD for permission to purge records older than 10 years after the records scanned and saved electronically.

Dr. Rogalska makes a motion to allow Rory to call current treasurers records to pertinent documents within 10 years unless deemed historical. Joe Morovits seconds. No further discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

ADJOURN: Rory Groessler made a motion to adjourn. Joe Morovits seconds. There was no further discussion. Meeting adjourned with unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Schroeter

WCMEA Secretary