

# WCMEA BOD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 21, 2024

HOLIDAY INN & CONFERENCE CENTER, STEVENS POINT

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Agnieszka Rogalska at 1728 hours.

**ATTENDANCE:** Jen Schroeter (Kenosha County), Marcie Rosas (Dunn/Eau Claire County), Lynn Johnson (Dunn/Eau Claire County), Dr. Agnieszka Rogalska (Dane County), Rory Groessl (Kewaunee County), Joe Morovits (Crawford County), PJ Schoebel (Dodge County), Brooke Kaat via phone (Dodge County), Crystal Schaub (Oneida County), Tom Renz (Bayfield County), Ronald Patten (Chippewa County), and Joshua Walters (Chippewa County).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 17, 2023 BOD MEETING:** Minutes previously reviewed. Joe Morovits makes a motion to approve minutes. Rory Groessl seconds. No further discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

## **OFFICER REPORTS:**

**PRESIDENT:** Dr. Rogalska states that she has little to report. She explains that she continues to follow the legislative changes. She continues to explain that there seems to be no stopping the momentum despite letters and petitions. She indicates that the cremation legislation has passed, the other legislation likely won't be far behind. She indicates that DHS will be developing C/ME best practices.

Jen Schroeter states that she had received inquiries from the membership regarding a letter template that could be used to send to legislators. Dr. Rogalska explains that she had been contemplating that as well; however, feels there would be a better outcome if people speak to legislators personally. She reiterates that DHS will be moving forward regardless of push back.

**1<sup>st</sup> VP:** Crystal Schaub reports that she has been working with Jen Schroeter on the conference planning. She states that there had been an increase in last minute registrations. She suggests that members be encouraged to register promptly for the next conference with deferred payment if needed to ensure that accurate numbers are submitted for the guarantees.

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP:** Brooke Kaat reports that currently the WCMEA has ~284 members, which is the same as last year. She states that Rusk and Florence Counties remain unpaid. She explains that she is working on putting an Excel spreadsheet together that she will share with the BOD via Google Groups. She indicates that she has not made any headway as of yet on virtual conference platforms.

**SECRETARY:** Jen Schroeter states that she has been working with Crystal Schaub on conference planning. She defers further reporting to Education Committee.

**TREASURER:** Rory Groessl states that he will provide a copy of the spreadsheet to review. Rory reports that the WCMEA currently ~80K. He states that monies have been coming in from membership dues and conference registrations. He indicates that no money has been spent on merchandise for this conference, and there have been no conference expenses thus far. He

explains that insurance is coming due in February, which he would like to reassess. He continues to explain that he is not concerned about the financial state of the WCMEA, as there are no large expenses such as lobbyist or attorney fees.

**SERGEANT AT ARMS:** Joe Morovits defers to Merchandise Committee. He states that he has received some inquiries about Zoom or other virtual options for future conferences. Dr. Rogalska states that the only thing that is holding the WCMEA back from virtual options at this time is finding a medium or platform.

**MEMBER AT LARGE:** Tom Renz reports that he followed up with neighboring counties regarding WCMEA participation. He explains that he spoke to Barb with Ashland County, who had indicated that she is limited to part-time employees. He continues to explain that Barb also has teaching obligations, so it is difficult for her to get away. Tom indicates that he reached out to Sawyer and Douglas Counties as well, and both counties expressed interest in membership.

Marcie Rosas mentions that her part-time staff has difficulty getting time off from their other jobs to be able to attend WCMEA events.

Dr. Rogalska states that virtual options may increase attendance and participation. Tom Renz expresses concern regarding attendance and the ability to track. Dr. Rogalska explains that most virtual options operate on an honor system.

**3-YEAR TRUSTEE:** PJ Schoebel has nothing to report. He inquires about the website and updating. Dr. Rogalska explains that Barry Irmen is currently maintaining the website until a new committee is established. PJ Schoebel and Crystal Schaub volunteer to work on the website committee. Rory Groessl states that he will work with Barry to have access/authorization changed.

**2-YEAR TRUSTEE:** Lynn Johnson reports that he attended the TIME Coalition meeting on 11/1/2023. He stated that Act 115 was discussed, which defines an “emergency or roadside response area” as a portion of a road within 500 feet of an authorized emergency vehicle. He explains that they are requesting media partners not to post pictures taken by people driving through crash scenes. He continues to explain that the coalition is looking for sponsorship to enhance MOSD law to include all vehicles pulled over on the shoulder. If the vehicle is pulled over on the shoulder, it has to display hazard/warning lights. In Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep, whenever you activate hazard lights, it sends out a signal and will send an alert to Waze which will notify you if you are using the app.

Dr. Rogalska inquires about the TIME Coalition attendance, and states that she continues to receive the meeting reminders. Lynn Johnson states that he and Jen Schroeter have been able to keep up on attendance of the meetings.

**1-YEAR TRUSTEE:** Marcie Rosas has nothing to report.

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Dr. P. Doug Kelley is absent.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**LEGISLATIVE:** Dr. Rogalska states that she has nothing to add, as she addressed the issues in the officer report.

**EDUCATION:** Jen Schroeter reports that final head counts were submitted on 1/15/24. Since that time, there had been some last minute registrations received. She indicates that she alerted hotel staff of the increase in numbers via email; however, did not receive confirmation so she has concerns regarding the food. She states there are ~70 people registered for the conference and ~9 vendors. She informs the BOD that Crystal had printed documents and labels for the conference folders and she requests volunteers to assist in putting the folders together. She indicates that Rory had purchased the books and gift cards. Rory states that he has 5 books and 3 gift cards. He explains that he had planned to order 6 books; however, the last book would not have been delivered until after the conference. He continues to explain that there are two \$50 Amazon gift cards, and one \$100 Amazon gift card.

Jen Schroeter explains that the Hilton Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton has been solidified as the venue for the June Conference which will be 6/24-6/26/2024.

**NEWSLETTER:** Jen Schroeter states that she has nothing to report. She states that she has been focusing on conference planning. She will work on completing an issue following the conference.

Dr. Rogalska inquires about the nominating committee. Jen Schroeter states that Marcie Rosas had been appointed as the trustee, and Dr. Kelley appointed as the past president. She explains that a member at large is still needed. Dr. Rogalska requests that a member at large be decided on by the end of the conference. The BOD reviews the officer positions that are up for election this cycle. It is determined that for the 2024 election, the following officer positions will be open: President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Treasurer, and 3-Year Trustee. For the 2025 election, it will be the following positions: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, and 3-Year-Trustee. All terms will be 2-year terms.

**MERCHANDISE:** Joe Morovits reports that there is no new merchandise for this conference. Jen Schroeter states that there likely won't be portfolios to sell at the merchandise table with the increase in registrations, as they are also being used as presenter gifts.

Tom Renz makes a motion to accept the committee reports. PJ Schoebel seconds. There is no further discussion. The motion passes with unanimous vote.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Dr. Rogalska states that the BOD needs to finalize the ByLaw changes in order to stay on schedule. She explains that she would like the BOD to have a meeting in February and will send out a Doodle Poll to gauge BOD availability.

Rory Groessl reminds the BOD that the WCMEA laptop has a broken screen. He states that it is cheaper to replace the device at this time, versus repair it. He indicates that the BOD had voted in favor of replacing the device, and also approved purchasing devices for each BOD member. He explains that he has been researching and pricing devices. He continues to explain that he found Lenovo devices that will work well for ~\$725 each. He states that Microsoft Office offers different tiers. He informs the BOD that the Basic Tier would run ~\$700/year and the Standard

Tier would run ~\$1500/year. The BOD discusses the need/uses for the devices and decides that the Basic Tier would be sufficient.

PJ Schoebel makes a motion to allow Rory to purchase a laptop and Basic MS package for each BOD member. Joe Morovits seconds. There is no further discussion. The motion passes unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The BOD discusses protection plans for the devices. Rory Groessl reviews options, and finds a 3-year protection plan that runs ~\$143 per device. The protection plan would allow device replacement if broken.

PJ Schoebel makes a motion to allow Rory to purchase a protection plan for each laptop at ~\$143/device. Joe Morovits seconds. There is no further discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

**ADJOURN:** Tom Renz made a motion to adjourn. PJ Schoebel seconds. There was no further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 1857 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jennifer Schroeter*

WCMEA Secretary