

NHCRA Board of Directors Annual Retreat/Meeting.

5 August 2009.

Present: Melinda Gehris, Ellen Dinerstein, Margaret Brick, Valerie Raudonis, Joan Gross, Charlotte Guyer, David Osman, Carol Stewart, Mary Sargent, Jocelyn King.

Absent: Sam Farrington, Alice Schieberl, Victoria Silver.

The annual retreat was called to order @ 3:20 PM (1520 hrs)

Introductions and welcome extended to the new members: David Osman, Charlotte Guyer, Mary Sargent, Jocelyn King. Group engagement in getting acquainted exercise completed.

Retreat packet contents reviewed by Melinda. Organizational structure reviewed including committee assignments.

Discussion: Clarification of committees' purpose and goals.

Membership changes to various committees..

#### **Understanding the Organizational Mission:**

Newer, streamlined NHCRA Mission & Goals previously adopted presented by Melinda.

#### **Priorities for 2009:**

1. NHACR Website
2. Increasing membership
3. Education

Significant discussion ensued. Please see Board meeting minutes.

1800-1830: A complimentary dinner was provided to the Board members.

#### **NHCRA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes.**

I The meeting was called to order @1850 hours.,

II Approval of May 6, 2009 minutes was unanimous.

III. Treasurer's Report

Melinda distributed a copy of the Treasurer's report for the period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Melinda noted the receipt of an anonymous grant (\$2000.00) earmarked for ADR future projects (as approved by NHACR Board).

Already committed: \$2000.00 NEACR contribution.

\$2000.00 Bar Association (ADR section)

The report was discussed and a motion made and passed to approve the Treasurer's report.

#### **COMMITTEE UPDATES:**

President's Request: Focused on 3 main priorities for 2009:

Website efficacy; All agreed that the NHACR website is central and inextricably linked to all of the NHACR goals, including increasing membership, communication, education and legislation updates.

Discussion: Difficulty with initial access to the website;

Obtaining accurate and timely information therefrom.

Posting educational offerings

Posting updated legislative issues to the website.

Plan: Melinda will bring a projector to the Sept. meeting for the board to view the current website and to discuss troubleshooting efforts.

Melinda will also follow up with Karen Borgstrom re the board being able to obtain summary legislative updates.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

It was unanimously agreed that this committee is closely linked to the website. Carol suggested the plausibility of holding board meetings online.

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#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

##### **Upcoming offerings:**

Probate mediation seminar 9/25/09.

Small claims mediation (date)? Possibly adding a skills fair to complete a full day.

Ethics workshop 10/16/09.

Legal Workshop (date?)

Plan: Peggy agreed to chair Education Committee. Report Sept meeting on exact dates seminars and webinar access.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:**

Discussion: Determine unequivocally the current number of members (paying). Estimated to be 135-150. In 2008, dues payment changed from 1 July each year to rolling, ie date joined yearly basis.

Articulating the benefits of membership and recruiting new members; establishing a constant contact list.. It was noted that membership may have declined over the last two years because the value is not readily discernable.

Mary volunteered to help with membership.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Effective 1 January 2010, Marital Mediation Certification Board becomes Family Mediation Certification Board.**

Two new membership slots opened on the MMCB: Candace Dochstader has been nominated and accepted; Tammy Gosling has been nominated; Both names submitted to Governor and Council.

Networking opportunities provide the ability for mediators to meet over lunch. A standard letter might be sent to small groups. Valerie volunteered to do initial facilitation; Joan drafting a letter.

Plan: Follow up on progress Sept. meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Proposed meeting schedule distributed and discussed** No change necessary. When necessary, one might attend via speaker phone. Use of SKYPE briefly mentioned.

Monthly meeting usually includes dinner \$10.00 charge Two days notice to cancel if opting out or unable to attend. Next meeting will be 9/2/09 at 6:15PM (1815) at the Hess/ Gehris office in Bow, NH.

2010 annual meeting will follow half day seminar and include cocktails with dinner.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn King

Secretary