

NHCRA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes, September 2, 2009

Present: Melinda Gehris, Margaret Brick, Valerie Raudonis, Joan Gross, Charlotte Guyer, David Osman, Carol Stewart, Sam Farrington, Alice Scheibert, Victoria Silver, Jocelyn King.

Absent: Ellen Dinerstein, Mary Sargent

I. The meeting was called to order @ 6:15PM.

II. Approval of the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting was unanimous with the following change: Usage of standard times vs usage of military time.

III. Treasurer's Report: An issue with the software precludes separating treasury records for 2 yrs, from Elizabeth's own business records. Treasury report at October meeting.

IV. Committee Updates:

Membership: Membership records are currently unavailable. Carol will check with Sandy or Bobbi to determine any issues. If records unavailable, do we restart from 1 Oct '09?

Question of rolling membership renewal or one date as standard. Rolling membership effective 3/09 showed 180 members active; 52 fully paid.

Follow up @ Oct mtg.

Education Committee: Scheduled to date:

10/30/09 Small Claims Workshop Judge Boyle presenting; Possibly in Concord.

11/20 or 12/4 USO.

1/10: Tax Implications of Divorce; Bankruptcy/Pension issues.

3/10: Legislative Update; ½ day; possibly Dom. Viol Elders, parents /children second half of day.

Annual Meeting : June 2; ½ day Finance issues; 1/2 day Advanced

Mediator workshop.

V. Old Business: Grant proposal for \$150,000 is being prepared by the following group: Judge Broderick, Sy Greg, Tammy Lenske, Director BIA, Former Dir. Medical Board. Topic: How does dispute resolution fit into today's world?

The grant proposal was presented to the Charitable Foundation. They were intrigued but uncertain, since it was unlike their norm. There is a plan to present it to the Bar Association.

Melinda will keep the Board apprised of this social Change mapping process, sending Confidential copies to the Board members.

Networking Mediators: Valerie sent an e-mail to Nashua mediators and has already received some positive interest replies. Carol will forward to other regions.

Progress check Oct. Mtg.

VI. New Business: NHCRA has a General Liability Policy. For renewal, we have a choice between Hartford @\$477.00/yr and MMG @\$523/yr. Melinda has extensively reviewed both and explained the differences to the board. The better, more comprehensive policy is the MMG. Melinda stated that she does do some work for MMG in Presque Isle, Me.

David moved and Jocelyn seconded the motion to accept the MMG policy. Accepted unanimously.

VII. Website: Carol has e-mailed Philip re; aforementioned issues, esp accessing the site. Resolved via moving to a different server; Philip requests contacting him ASAP for further issues.

We are to e-mail Carol with specifics.

David and Jocelyn working on the questionnaire, combining a narrative and queries. Due by Oct mtg or before. ?Constant Contact Survey tool.

Karen Borgstrom approved giving legislative update summaries to us for inclusion in the website; ie an e-mail blast for the latest information quickly.

Discussion re: Website content: ? link to some other websites, eg National ACR, Maine ACR.

Carol requested Board members to send her links that they'd like listed and how to obtain.

David asked : How does ACR permeate the state?; not necessarily called mediation.

It was suggested that we ask Karen Borgstrom to contribute an article quarterly on what's going on in OMA .

Carol: Update homepage: Change the current listing of mediators to include their categories of practice; include categories with a link to website; segues nicely with dues payment (opportunity to link with name on website).

Val will establish a list of categories.

Suggested: Website Homepage have upcoming educational opportunities listed.

The possibility of book reviews from seminars: asking presenters prior to listing to be certain that appropriate permission in place.

Group Query: How long should BOD minutes be posted on website? Move by Joan with second, unanimously agreed: 1-3 months.

NHACR Board recommendations: 1 article per year from each member. Eg: Ora Schwartzberg book on Divorce (handbook for participants only).

Spotlight on a Member (something interesting, not necessarily mediation related)

Charlotte: More inclusive membership, ie student volunteers.

David: Engaging police officers; prison program- grant to start victim/offender talks.

Condensing future meetings: ie spending 45 minutes on one topic, followed by (or preceded by) discussion of current agenda. All seemed in favor of this venue.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn King

Secretary