



Minutes from Board Meeting on 11-19-2015

Attendance: Stephanie, Janelle, William, Miranda, Jazmone, Christian, Ajita, Nick, Kierra, Marybeth, Marilyn, and Cathie. Regrets: Chunnu, Donna, Emily

1) President Update (Stephanie): Brief update on strategic initiatives. Meeting with ACA Southern Region Chair on Monday to seek guidance as a mentee, consolidate strategic vision, how to work smarter not harder towards goals. Stephanie has also engaged former ACA presidents and MCA presidents to increase input on strategic planning, increase active committees and divisions, increase membership, continue to grow presentations with CEUs, have guidance on overall plan of action.

A) State Division and Committee Update (Christian) Brief update, working to get right people in the right positions in committees. Goals include adding more committees and projects such as Human Rights (to work closely with Advocacy) Graduate Student and Professional Development. Looking forward for FY16 ideas for future Presidency, and Christian is filtering volunteers into best use of skills. Want to hold 2017 Conference in Ocean City with 50th Anniversary.

B) Interest in MCA Board Vacancies: Asst Secretary and By-laws open, currently 4 candidates expressed interest in positions. Candidates were told to wait until post-conference for more information.

2) Finances (reported by Stephanie on behalf of Sarah and LaNail) MCA is in a very good financial position. No concrete numbers available, but much better than expected, and definitely in the black! Future goals to offer funds to graduate students/professional development Conference "cushion" for next year therefore funding other projects and boost membership. Kay, former MCA President mentioned that historically there was a scholarship program. Desire to resurrect this scholarship for students \$500-\$1000 better advertised and utilized.

3) Annual Conference Debrief: Asked board attendees for 3 bullet points each on conference. Nick: the A/C door distracting and there was spacing issues in different seminars. The air wall was not well designed for our purposes. Janelle: Complaints about lack of handicapped parking and accessibility. Content of conference very good, "amazing" Ajita: As a presenter noise was difficult from other room, pseudo wall not ideal but demonstrated resilience in face of adversity. Lack of ADA accommodations was disappointing. Marilyn: Conference went very well; in spite of hiccups it was well directed and moved well. Food was great! Christian: ADA issues, efficiently run. Cathie: Heard from many attendees complimenting Keynote, sessions, and food

Complaints included parking, handicap access, and bathrooms inadequate. Stephanie thanked everyone again for all support. Ideas briefly tossed around for location and how to avoid pitfalls with ADA access next year.

Kierra: Clarified status of CEUs. Special thanks to those that helped since Kierra could not attend conference. Cathie will photocopy forms and mail originals to Kierra to process.

4) Newsletter: Thanks for submissions for last newsletter. Next deadline is end of Dec/Jan 4 or 5. Please submit any upcoming events to be included in newsletter

5) PR/Social Media: Continuing weekly digest/newsblast Please contact with info on upcoming events

6) Membership (Nick): Will need assistance reaching out to members who have allowed membership to lapse, (goal to reactivate) including 14 people who are currently overdue for ann dues. Good news is 24 new members at conference! Ideas to increase membership include using monthly networking events and happy hours in different parts of the State and to increase student membership. Over 3000 on Wild Apricot, need to access those to reach out membership.

7) Advocacy (Janelle) Added 2 new board members, will send updates to Cathie to update board list.

8) Website: Cathie will send out summary of ideas for website by end of November

9) By-Laws: Final draft of MCA By-laws, proposed by-laws for MALGBTIC will submit final vote by members via electronic means. Process is that once approved by MCA members, sent to ACA Governing Board for approval and review.

10) Division Updates

MAMCD (Donna) our spring Conference "Lives Matter: Mental Health Needs of Minorities in Urban Settings will be held Sat April 16th, Keynote Speaker invited is Kevin Shird a native Baltimorean. Although this comes soon after ACA Conference it is requested show of support to attend this conference.

MACES (Ajita) Working on revision of by-laws increase membership of board

MSCA: February Conference on interpersonal violence and bullying

MASERVIC: Found charter letter, searching for by-laws

MCDA: Look for upcoming events, will put on web

MAMFC(Marsha): Happy to co-sponsor w/MSCA Conference on 02/27

MALGBTIC (Proposed): Board members will meet next week, anticipating approval of addition of division to MCA

11) Brief discussion on where/when to hold next month's in person board meeting