

NHSLHA
NOV. 18, 2014

Present: Todd Butler, Gina England, Carolyn Garretson, Melissa Mercer, Cass Chapman, Annie Doyle, June Adinah, Vicki Chesterly, Erin Fortier

Advisor: Christopher Boothby

Visiting: Bridget Powers

1. Minutes from last month: They were accepted by all.
2. NH Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders: June recently attended the group's annual retreat two weeks ago. They looked back at what had been accomplished, discussed progress on current undertakings, and contemplated projects for the future.
3. Carolyn spoke to changes in leadership at the state house in NH.
4. Treasurer Carolyn's report: \$1113.95 is in our account.
5. Website: Melissa has been trying to get all the formatting to be consistent, she's almost done getting all the board members info. on the website, and has changed the look of a few things. Melissa has had a few email exchanges with M. She also made a "store" for us under her name. She did it through Ecwid – people can pay with their paypal accts. for membership and items. Membership info. will go from Ecwid to Erin so that she has the info. she needs. Limitation: can only have 10 items and the account is for free. It is \$150/year if we have more than 10 items for sale. Our contract with Crimson designs: \$483.99 is what we've paid since 1/2014. M bills us ~ \$180 every few months. It is a flat rate per hour. Todd believes it is about \$30/hour – he has the info. on his computer at home. We own the website and the hosting (\$34/year). Melissa thinks Crimson Designs owns the "template" for the website. Todd explained that it is his understanding that M. wrote the website for us but it is now our product. Melissa asked how things will work as she takes over more and more of the website work – will we continue to pay M? Gina and Todd both spoke to the feeling that M. does her work with the hope that her clients will eventually take on the maintenance of their site by themselves.
THE STORE: Everything is set up via Ecwid. There would be free shipping and folks can pay online. Annie was thinking about going through Spreadshirts – you can order directly through them. From a brief discussion, it appears that Ecwid is easier to use.

The Board voted in favor of Ecwid and all that Melissa has set up.

6. Christopher: He met with Bob Blaisdell to a)confirm what we already knew: he provides oversight and defense for the retainer we pay him; and b)to ask about if we wanted to be proactive, how would that work? How much would that cost? Bob did up a proposal for us and said it would be \$20,000 for us. Christopher told him we did not have that kind of money. Christopher asked a friend of his who is familiar with this sort of thing if this quote was realistic

– his friend said that it is in the ballpark. Christopher wants to know if a) we think the membership is invested in making any change in our profession via a legislative agenda and b) what would be the issue that we would take up with our lobbyist? Question c) is: what can we reasonably expend for this? Issues that were mentioned as being of interest to us are: a) discontinuing Alt 4 for our profession and b) having all who practice our profession licensed versus some licensed and some with certification from the Dept. of Ed. Other topics are working to make conditions for school pathologists better and having NH act with reciprocity towards licenses from other states.

Todd reminded us our annual contract comes up for renewal in March.

We voted to move this discussion to the December meeting. We should each think about what issue we would be interested in and why. Do some research if there are questions you have. Christopher asked us if he could ask Bob Blaisdell if he would work for us for \$5,000 or \$7,000 – to see if he could nail him down. Gina expressed concern that it has taken us years to get \$10,000 in the bank and we should be clear about what our priorities would be and where we want to put our money. Gina also reminded us that we would need to ask membership what they would be interested in having us work on.

7. Todd will mail the bill for our continuing education via ASHA to Carolyn – he apologizes for leaving it at home.
8. Boothby paid the fee for certification for an event that they ended up canceling. Boothby has another event scheduled for Feb. and Todd recommends that a rescheduled event moves the fee forward. Thus, this would be extended to any organization or individual.
9. Carolyn: we had talked about getting a speech-language assistant to the Board. Sophie Merrill will come to our next meeting. She is from Amherst. Bernadette Quinn is an audiologist that Carolyn spoke with and she is willing to come and see what the Board is all about next month as well.

NEXT MEETING: December 9, 2014 at HealthSouth Rehab.