

NHSLHA BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2014

Board Members Present: Todd Butler, Vicki Chesterly, Christopher Boothby, Cass Chapman, Carolyn Garretson, Erin Fortier, Gina England, Annie Doyle, Melissa Mercer, and June Adinah.

Visitor: Shannon Hurley

- 1) Previous Meeting Minutes: Carolyn moved that we accept them and we all voted in favor of this.
- 2) Conference Debrief: We all felt it was very successful. 76 Total participants did fall short of our hopes. The only negative feedback had to do with the AV issues and people were pretty reasonable about that.
- 3) Treasurer's Report: \$450.00 in dues in Oct. \$200 for CEU fees. \$298 in Oct. for conference. In Sept. \$240 membership, \$350. In ads and \$3725 registrations for conference. From Eventbrite: \$5617.15. In Sept. we took in: \$4315 In Oct. we took in \$6565.15. \$10,216.95 is in our account! We have a check for \$60 that got sent to Gina for a year membership that'll go into the account as well. We really increased our membership!! Our profit was \$7925 after paying all bills except catering which is \$432.00.

There were 51 forms that Todd did for ASHA CEUs.

Positives of the conference: We had \$150 taken off our bill for the AV problem. Patty Prelock handled the lack of AV tech incredibly well. We really liked the space/building. Jared's presentation was novel.

Negatives of the conference: AV problem. We couldn't use the cafeteria for lunch. Patty Prelock was a great presenter but we'd like to think about "digging deeper" into the topic of autism. We did not draw the parents/family members/ other than SLP population as an audience.

- 4) Discussion of NHSLHA's future.
Carolyn motioned that we continue as an organization. Vicki seconded it. Todd asked that we have time to discuss this before voting so a discussion ensued.

Positive things: more folks on the board now than in recent past; Melissa is on her way to speaking to UNH graduate students and plans to do the same with undergraduate students; Melissa wrote up a newsletter for NHSLHA and passed around her first one – she thinks doing something like this for the website might be a good move; consider presenting shorter CEU events.

Action Items: a) community speaker series every few months (Gina is ready to sketch out a plan), skip the ASHA CEUs, move it to different locations

around the state, and b) pump up the website (Melissa is willing to get trained in Wordpress – she needs a contact person). Moderate our membership efforts. We're doing about as well as other New England states. Todd feels we would be smart to dial down our efforts a bit in this area and apply more energy to other areas. Our membership number is 130 with people Erin thinks are due to renew any minute. Cass feels we could spend 2015 making NHLHA what we want it to be. If at the end of the year people are still not supporting by joining – well that speaks volumes. C) personal contact to increase membership.

Gina suggests we form a website committee. We can get free consultation resources from Cass's brother or from SCORE.

- 5) Continue our relationship with ASHA. It involves filling out some paperwork. We don't know if there is/what the cost is at this moment. We voted unanimously to continue this.
- 6) Todd's 2 year term is up in June. We have to have regular elections for other positions. He proposes we have elections in January at our meeting – we voted in favor of this.
- 7) Continuing Ed piece: renewal for administrator application is now costing \$700. Their fee per event goes up to \$325/event (from \$150/event). We currently charge \$250 per event. We have \$500 so far this year from CEUs and we saved \$250 we didn't have to pay for our event. So, we are up \$50 for the year (it ends in January). Erin noted that we don't charge non-members of NHLHA for doing the CEUs for them. This made us a little bit of money last year. Gina asked, where will organizations go if we don't provide this service for the state? Other states can do this for NH. On the other hand, it is a good service we provide for individuals who are speakers and organizations that want this service provided through ASHA. It also adds legitimacy to our organization.

Gina knows of 2 engagements she plans to do next year and plans to use NHLHA to file with ASHA, the Brain Injury Assoc. of NH is already planning one conference next year. Erin suggests we push to get someone else to take over as CEU administrator. We could put the word out around the state to tell people/organizations that we offer this.

We voted to pay the fee to ASHA for the next year (six in favor and two opposed). Todd offered to continue doing it for the foreseeable future.

- 8) The Constitution – it is very out of date. Vicki circulated a few sections of the constitution to us. It included proposals for additional positions and rationals for such for the Board as well as a list of current board positions. Advisor positions would be “advising” our membership. Erin noted that many people who contact us are non-members. There will be an opportunity for people to move to a new position. Todd reminded us that work on the constitution should be done via a small committee. June, Barbara and Vicki volunteered at our recent

retreat. Melissa suggested a board position for an Ethics advisor. Gina said that ASHA just put out an ethics position paper and she'll send a link to this to Todd.

Carolyn suggests that membership and the website position be combined since renewals and reaching out to people will happen more and more via the website. As we discuss the board positions more, we'll get better clarity on this.

9) We pay our lobbyist from Demers & Blaisdell \$2000 per year. Do we continue to do this?

Christopher spoke to this – what is the will of NHSLHA? He wonders if there is a way that he could be an in-between person between the board and the lobbyist? Our current fee is paid through March. Cass asked what they do for us. They go to hearings, watch the legislature for things we are likely to be interested in, and they contact us regarding the proposed bills. We have benefited from this in the past but not with great regularity (it is kind of like insurance – you can go long periods of time without utilizing it but when you need it, then it is good to have). Christopher is offering to move us towards being proactive and not only reactive. He also wonders if we could have our lobbyist come and speak with us. Vicki motioned that we have Christopher be our liason – we all voted in favor of this.

10) Vicki thinks a good topic for a conference would be: Forward Motion Coaching in Mass. They address transitioning people from the schools to the work force. It could be marketed to parents, adults with disabilities and high school staff, in addition to SLPs.

NEXT MEETING: November 18, 2014.

***Please note that we are meeting on the 3rd Tues. of Nov. due to a holiday on the 11th!

Notes taken by June Adinah. Secretary