

Summer Joint Board Meeting of NAFBAS & NFRBMEA (DRAFT) Blue Harbor Resort, Sheboygan, WI June 9, 2019

Those in attendance: Anthony Barrett (NE), Bob Rhea (IL), Deb Pike (MN), Myron Oftedahl (MN), Laura Powers (KY), Mark Wood (KS), John Jones (MI), Jim McCabe (IL), Michelle Seiffert (NE), Tina LeBrun (MN), Mike Harer (WI), Brad Sirianni (WI), Lori Tonak (SD), and Pauline Van Nurden (MN).

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. The group introduced themselves around the table. Mike Harer was chosen to chair the meeting and Anthony Barrett was chosen to act as secretary. With no objections to those chosen, the meeting progressed.

Minutes from the October meeting in Sheboygan, WI were reviewed. Laura Poweres made a motion to accept the minutes. This was seconded by Lori Tonak and motion carried.

It was noted that the MOA between the two boards is still perpetually ongoing until 2 years written notice by either party. Profits are to be shared 50/50 between both groups. No other discussion.

Annual Conferences: Since the two groups combined for an annual conferences in 2006, there have been over 3,000 people attend in some capacity (registrants, spouses, children, etc.). Attendance has been steadily declining over the years. What needs to happen to increase attendance at the National Conference? At this conference, there are 129 registrants (NAFBAS 66, NFRBMEA 30, and Extension 33). There are also 41 spouses, 43 children, and 3 single day registrants.

May Lutze should by thanked for all her work in preparing and planning for this conference. She was really the "nuts & bolts" behind most everything.

The hotel is "sponsoring" \$1,300 for room credits. This is in addition to 7 other local sponsors. Thee registration cost is \$450 this year (the maximum amount approved by the joint board in summer 2018 in PA). The planning committee chose to charge the max amount due to budget concerns at the time of planning. Wisconsin did grant us the sales tax exemption this year which is a significant amount and makes a difference in the budget. Right now, the budget is showing \$14,655 of profit. The room guarantee has not been met. However, our food minimum is way over so we are hoping the hotel will take that into consideration on the shortage of rooms.

Myron Oftedahl (treasurer) would like to subtract the \$3,064.33 loss from the PA conference before splitting any profits to replace what was lost and keep funds in the checkbook to move forward with 2020 planning. Lori Tonak made the motion for Myron to subtract \$3,064.33 from any profits from this conference before splitting among the two groups. Motion was seconded by Mark word and motion carried.

The NAFBAS board approved continued funding for the early career training at \$1,500. The training was well attended here. There are 18 attendees and 3 mentors.

The registration provider we have used is up for renewal. Jim McCabe is hoping it will be in the \$2,500 range for a 2 year contract again. He has no notification or anything in writing yet from them at this time. Jim stated the fees we pay for this has dropped some due to using a merchant account through them. There are still fees charged, just at a decreased level. American Express cards are still not allowed as the fees are large for this card.

Des Moines was the last conference we had any CHS scholarship attendees. We have lost those funds from CHS. Utah has a local lender that is willing to send one every year. However, the offer has not been accepted since we would only be able to choose one person.

There are no requests for refunds this year that the boards need to approve.

It is encouraged that social media be used to spread word and info about the conference. Please be consistent in hashtag use etc.

Mike Harer started the discussion on the decline in attendance. What can be done? There has been some question about offering some of the presentations in webinar form during the week. Then we could accept webinar registrations from members that don't come to the conference but want to view presentations. Is this something the boards want to explore? There could be issues such as presenters not allowing their presentations to be broadcast, registration issues, having the capabilities at the hotels to do this, etc. Roger McEowen has told Bob that the webinar piece is strong for his seminars and doesn't seem to hurt live attendance. However, he stated the hotels have to have strong internet and the technology has to be great to provide a good product to the webinar attendees.

In the future should more fundraising be sought to help with costs or look at higher registration fees if needed? Would less days for the conference make a difference for members and get more people to come? Or in today's world, do we just have to accept there is going to be a decline in live attendance and we have to figure out how to deal with the consequences? Mike Harer feels the location this year in Sheboygan should have been a bigger draw with what the area offers as a tourist destination. Brad Sirianni state that people needed more info on the conference in January & February. At that time the information wasn't there to share. Some of the educational institutions need info such as dates, hotel cost, registration cost, etc. before approving the spending. Maximum registration cost, hotel costs, rough agenda, and dates need to get on the conference website ASAP to help this issue.

Kevin Clair came in to address the boards as an extension representative. Extension knows their numbers are declining as well. In their meeting, they said they would be interested in hosting the triennial conferences they are a part of. They would not do any tours. They would like to offer to our two groups that they host 2022. They would also offer to do the registration through CFFM like it was done prior to the current system. Many of the issues we had with the CFFM system when we left have been taken care of. They would offer registration at no cost to us and they want registration open in February and not May. They are also open to the option in going to the southern extension area.

The 2020 site selection is down to 2 hotels. The Millennium House in Boulder, CO and the Hilton in Ft Collins, CO are the two contenders. The location will likely be Boulder. The guest rooms are in 3 different buildings so will be some walking. There is a stream through the property making it very scenic. There is a fly fishing instructor that has offered to do lessons on the stream for us. There is much to do in the area. NOAA, MCAR are in Boulder along with Celestial Spices. The drawback to this location is being 60 miles from the Denver Airport.

John Jones made the motion to accept CO as the destination. This was seconded by Brad Sirianni and motion carried.

Brad Sirianni made the motion for the joint boards to meet in the fall with the dates and location to be determined. Pauline Van Nurden seconded and motion carried.

Meeting was declared adjourned for evening activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony L. Barrett
Appointed Secretary for Joint Board Meeting