

Minutes of the Winter NFRBMEA Board Meeting

January 22, 2019 • Conducted via Conference Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm. Update by everyone both personally and professionally. Members present: Brad Sirianni, Betsy Jensen, Tina LeBrun, Bruce Fowler, Pauline VanNurden and Deb Pike. Reports will need to be brief - include anything pertinent to keep everyone up to date.

Betsy presented the Secretary's report. Reports from the 2018 Fall NFRBMEA and Joint meetings were mailed earlier.

Deb presented the Communications Director's report. Membership numbers are looking better than this time last year with 82 Regular, 8 Affiliate, and 1 Honorary member. We'll have to ask membership how they feel about the membership cards. The cards list the date the dues were paid, and when the membership ends (May 31). We do not allow prepayment of dues. We have 12 new members this year. NUTS & BOLTS will be published on 1-23-19.

Tina gave the Sponsorship report. Culvers is a sponsor for the conference, and we have asked everyone on the long list, and we're waiting to hear. We are on track, and now in the waiting game. Brad is going to work with his WI colleagues and ask them to make personal contact with potential sponsors. The WI group will meet in early February to discuss sponsorship and conference issues. Brad would like to add Grainbridge to the list of sponsors.

Bruce reported on a Benchmarking grant. There is a great group working together for the grant, but with the federal government shutdown the timeline is even more unknown.

Pauline gave a CFFM update. Benchmarking group met, please let the CFFM know of the glitches within Finpack. We are always happy to do webinars to help with benchmarking and Finpack service.

A general discussion was held on progress towards goals: a) Increase membership by 20%, we've probably already done that; b) Scholarship for the 2019 conference: we'll know soon; c) Increase in overall sponsorship: we'll find out at conference.

Brad gave an update on the National Conference. A list of breakout session ideas was created last fall. Additional ideas were "using lenders to promote your program" and "building support within your state". North Central Extension sent out a call for proposals last week, so we should be getting those ideas as well. Brad sent out bios for speakers and tours.

Looking for an idea for a professional development opportunity offered online to our membership this winter, also looking for something to put on our website and make available to members. We are always looking for ideas.

There was no news on the Conference 2020 in Colorado.

Betsy Jensen,
NFRBMEA Secretary