

## **NASW Oregon Chapter Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

*September 14, 2008*

**Attendance:** Larry Betcher, Victoria Bones, Dave Olson, Donna Arriaga, Catherine Beckett, Jo Ella Anglin, Donald Didier, Raina Banu-Clayton, Liz Stuart, Sara Westerfeld, Simon Paquette, Meghan Thivierge, Emily Noack, Aimee Coughlin

**Staff:** Stacey Skala Orr

### **Excused Absences:**

Dennis Heath  
Chareundi Van-Si  
Char Tong

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM.

### **Consent Agenda:**

Correction to the minutes from 7/12/08 board meeting:  
Appointment of Sarah Westerfeld & Victoria bones to serve on Executive Committee.

Action: Catherine moved to pass the consent agenda, Sarah seconded. Motioned passed with above correction.

### **President's Report:**

1) Larry and Stacey went to Seattle to participate in the virtual Delegate Assembly meeting. Many were unhappy about not being able to convene face-to-face in Washington D.C. In summary, DA meets every three years. One agenda item was to replace sex distribution with gender distribution and to add "gender identity or expression" into various areas of the Code of Ethics. Frederick Reamer objected to the change due to the process, not the content, because he didn't think the DA was the best vehicle to change the Code of Ethics. However, the change passed overwhelmingly.

Another agenda item that passed after much discussion was to give the National NASW Board of Directors authority to change the bylaws with the exception of disbanding DA and the 50/50 dues split allocation between National NASW and Chapters. Stacey points out that the national Board will now be able to approve changes such as membership rates and categories, which in the past could only be approved by DA every three years.

Larry will be writing an article about DA in his next President's column. Both Larry & Stacey will be attending a national meeting and training in Chicago where the evaluation of the first virtual DA will be reviewed.

2) At the July board meeting we approved the ability for the Board to dissolve inactive volunteer groups. The Diversity Committee has not met since April, and has not been an effective mechanism for carrying out Chapter goals related to diversity and cultural competency.

As a Chapter, we are required to submit a diversity plan to National NASW each year. It was proposed that the board have more oversight for identifying and implementing diversity goals and to create an appointed taskforce if and when necessary. The SWR workforce survey will provide valuable workforce demographic data, and the recommendations from the diversity breakout session at the leadership retreat will be integrated into our strategic and fiscal year action plan.

Raina pointed out this is a positive move to assure that diversity is integrated into everything we do.

Action: Dave moved that we dissolve the Diversity Committee, and the Board have more oversight in carrying out diversity goals. Catherine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3) We need to appoint Diane Ponder as the Nominations Committee Chair and Lu An Carone as the Corvallis District Chair.

Action: Simon moved, multiple people seconded. Motion carried.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

#### 1) Website update

Stacey shared one of the new designs for the new website with the goals of being modern, engaging and easy to navigate. The next step is to transfer the content from our existing site. The home page will feature rotating images of actual social workers from the Public Education Campaign, various Oregon landmarks and core social work values. New features will include a calendar function, member-only sections, an 'online member center' where members can submit questions to the office, request an ethics consultation, and online forums/message boards with various categories. The initial goal launch date was 9/30/08, though winter is now a more realistic timeline. Board members are impressed with design.

#### 2) Elections Update

At the local level our political action committee has taken the following positions: Yes on M56 and M57, No on: M58, M59, M61, M63. There will be an e-communications campaign to inform our members of these positions as well as candidates endorsed by SWPAC. Stacey briefly explained each of the positions taken.

The Social Workers Political Action Committee (SWPAC) met in May and decided on the following early endorsements: Rep. Arnie Roblan, Coos Bay; Rep. Jean Cowen, Mid-Coast, Rep. Chuck Riley, Forrest Grove (\$1000), Brent Barton, Clackamas Co. (\$500) There will be a meeting this week to do next round of endorsements, fundraising effort is in progress.

#### 3) Social Work Reinvestment (SWR) Initiative

To date, 800 participants have completed the workforce survey. Don will present a summary of the findings at the November board meeting. Next steps are to take SWR on the road at various events around the state and to invite local members to hear about the survey results, invite legislators to attend and to put out a call to action to get social workers involved in reinvestment efforts. SWR will be a central theme for Lobby Day, scheduled for 3/5/09, and throughout social work month.

#### 4) National Updates

PACE Endorsements for Oregon include Rep. Earl Blumeneauer (OR-3), Rep. Peter DeFazio (OR-4), Rep. David Wu (OR-1). The NASW Presidential Candidate Endorsement is for Barack Obama.

Social Work Reinvestment Act (SWRA): There was a first of its kind congressional hearing in July 2008 to address the challenges facing the social work profession; panelists who provided testimony included Gary Bailey among others. SWRA has created more than 12,000 letters to the Senate and more than 16,000 to the House, an overwhelming response from NASW members.

NASW Response to Sarah Palin: National NASW released an official response against Sarah Palin's negative comments at the Republican Convention about the role of community organizers. There was discussion about releasing this press release at the local level. We currently lack the capacity for coordinated, proactive media outreach and need a current media list, connections to media outlets, etc. This is a SWR goal for FY 08-09, as well as one of Larry's presidential goals.

#### 5) Upcoming Events

Stacey announced the dates of upcoming fall workshops, metro networking nights, the Social Work Day of Action, and Claudia Black on March 13, 2009. A suggestion was made to try to avoid back-to-back weekend events as NASW members who live outside of Portland/Salem are not likely to attend both events due to travel.

#### **Treasurer/Finance Committee Report:**

##### 1) FY 07-08 Year End Financial Statements

In looking at the annual budget report, we ended FY 07-08 with a slight deficit of approximately \$4,500. It was noted that this is a paper deficit due to expected losses in our market investments, though we had initially budgeted for an 8% return in this revenue category. We expect some recovery in this area between 2009-2010.

We reviewed the GAAP reconciliation report and our actual assets increased; therefore we ended the fiscal year with a slight surplus. Stacey pointed out that our assets as of 6/30/08 includes our SWR grant money, which will be spent by 6/30/09. Therefore, if we perform according to budgeted and if our investments continue to decline, we can expect to close FY 08-09 with an actual deficit.

Overall, our expenses for FY 07-08 were less than budgeted. We had a negative variance on food expenditures due to budgeting the cost of food for the statewide conference based on previous registration numbers. Our event fee revenue was higher than projected due to the turnout to the statewide conference.

Over the last two years we have seen a slight, steady increase in full paying members and are currently only one of 12 chapters nationally experiencing an increase in membership.

Overall, the Treasurer reports that our financial position is strong and sees no red flags. There is nothing unusual per secretary.

Action: Meeting adjourned at 1:55pm.

Next meeting is Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Portland (meeting location TBD).

*Submitted by Aimee Coughlin, Board Secretary.*