



## MERC BOARD MEETING

June 4, 2010

**In attendance:** John Allen, Beth Anderson, David Arnold, Jill Burke, Angela Faircloth-Kucharski, Eileen Hachey, Patti Holey, Sherry Johnson, Doug McElrath, Julie Rice, Jill Rush, Sue Stenberg, and Lee Waggi. **Absent:** Kirsten Ruliffson.

The following topics were discussed and reported at the June 4, 2010, MERC Board meeting:

### Presidents Report

- Minutes from the February 2, 2010 Board Meeting were APPROVED and will now be posted to the Web site.
- The Board welcomed new members and expressed appreciation to outgoing members for their service.
- Changes to the By Laws were unanimously approved by MERC members. New By Laws are posted on the MERC Web site.
- Doug McElrath will attend the Regional Presidential luncheon at the Spring Worldwide ERC event as a representative of MERC.
- Discussed that each board member is to submit a photograph to be posted on the MERC Web site. Jill Rush will look into using a local photographer she knows so the photos could look consistent and professional.
- Discussed updating MERC's values and mission statement.
- Discussed adding a "Presidents Message" on our Web site. This could be written or a video which would last no more than a few minutes. Patti would write/tape the first message.

### Treasures Report

- David reported that MERC is in a very strong financial position.
- Year-to-date income was \$47,441 and expenses were \$21,798.
- Charitable contributions include \$6,100 for *Friends of Children* and \$1,000 to the Wash DC coalition who represents the interest of relocation and provides updates on tax, legal and regulatory actions that can impact our industry.
- John Allen motioned and the Board APPROVED amending the resolution that our operating reserve fund (savings account for MERC) be changed from "not to exceed 10 percent of our annual gross revenue" to "at the discretion of the Executive Board."

### Secretary

- Voting results were as follows:
  - President – Patti Holey
  - Vice President (Co-Chair) – Kirsten Ruliffson
  - Membership Co-Chairs: Doug McElrath and Eileen Hachey
  - Community Care Co-Chairs: Angela Faircloth-Kucharski and Beth Anderson
- Discussed creating and posting the history of MERC on the Web site.
- Discussed updating the job descriptions of board and committees and posting on MERC Web site.
- Jill explained the need for improvement to our computer program for sending messages to our members. Discussed sending and/or receiving messages in a HTML or TXT format.
- Will add at the end of blasts that "no solicitation of business at MERC meeting and events" so all attendees are aware of this.

### VP Report

- Discussed the success of the 2010 Annual Conference. The conference should net around \$10,000.
- Date and location for next year's conference will be finalized.
- Sue will send the list of people who signed up for the various committees to the committee chairs.



## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Membership**

- Committee initiatives for 2010-2011 include:
  - Refine collection process and procedures
  - Benchmark cost of dues for other regional ERCs
  - Expand corporate membership
  - Continue on the development of the MERC brochure and post on Web site when complete

### **Community Cares**

- Jill Rush reported that we are paid up on finance obligations.
- New Community Cares Chairs and committee will plan an Oktoberfest this year at Janet Schaefer's barn (September or October) and will select the charity for the Holiday party.

### **Education Chair**

- The June meeting is on the movement of household goods at the Sheraton Ridgedale.
- The August meeting will be a networking event at the Eitel building. Board members recommended other venues and will e-mail Sherry with the names of those places.
- The September meeting will be a fun game event titled "Are you smarter than a relocating 5<sup>th</sup> grader?" courtesy of Janet Schaefer at Altair.
- The committee is aware that MERC is in a position to pay for out-of-town speakers and accommodate their overnight needs at the Sheraton for very reasonable rates.

### **Web Chair**

- Lee has posted the new board members' names on our Web site.
- Lee will train other board members with administration rights on how to use our Web site.
- Discussed needing to have members update their profiles on the Web site. Other committee members will help with this. Considering offering the help before the June meeting and during the August meeting during networking time.

**Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 3, 2010 – Location to be determined**

**Minutes submitted by Jill Burke, MERC Secretary**