

MERC BOARD MEETING
8/4/09 (9:30 AM to 11:30 AM)

In attendance: Sue Stenberg, Doug McElrath Julie Rice, David Arnold, Sherry Johnson, Mary Lou Cohen, Jill Rush, Steve Vnoucek, Lee Waage and John Allen. Absent: Jill Burke.

The following topics were discussed and reported on from the 8/4/09 MERC Board meeting:
Minutes from the May 5th 2009 Board Meeting were APPROVED.

Presidents Report:

- The present MERC "By Laws" do not account for Vacancies on the Board. The following wording was suggested "The Board shall have the authority to fill any vacancy in any Office or any Directorship occurring through any cause other than expiration of the term of office" A change to the By Laws requires approval by the membership, a motion was made to include this By Law change in the 2010 Voting Process, the motion was APPROVED.
 - The President commented on the need to review the By Laws specifically Article IV, Section 3
 - Election and Terms of Office
 - Clarify the definitions of the Board, such as Officers and Membership Chairs
- The Board discussed the possibility of adding a Historical section to the website where past Presidents, and significant events can be recorded.
- Chris Wilson with ERC (who will be a panelist at our next group meeting) is heading up a new greatly improved Private Regional Leaders Discussion site. The change will be official September 1st, 2009.
- Jill Rush attended the Regional Presidents Meeting at ERC conference in San Diego. She noted that a number of Regional groups do not charge for a Corporate Membership. Regional representatives were all interested in sharing resources, such as speaker resources and AMO upgrades. AMO is planning a major and costly upgrade and sharing costs could make sense..

Treasures Report:

- MERC records financial activity on an annual basis, as of August 4th 2009 income was \$64,406 and expenses were \$56,644. The checking account balance is \$11,801 and the Operating Reserve fund is \$7,047.
- MERC is Incorporated in the State of Minnesota and as such is eligible to purchase Insurance for Board Members and Officers while representing MERC. It was RESOLVED to further study the merits of Board Insurance, review the required definitions and all cost. Mr. Arnold will present his findings at the November Board meeting.
- Mr. Arnold recommended a brief Treasures report to the Membership to include past income and expenses, a detail of the Annual Conference and an overview of the current year.

Secretary:

- No Report

VP Report:

- The 2010 Annual Conference Committee Co-Chaired Julie Rice and Sue Stenberg will meet August 11th. The Annual Conference is scheduled for Thursday April 15th, 2010 at The Depot in Downtown Minneapolis.
- The Depot has received our deposit of \$2,000.00 and confirmed the date.
- The Budget on the 2009 Conference is closed.
 - Receivables were \$51,710
 - Expenses were \$40,231.48
 - Net profit of \$11,478.52
- 148 paid participants for a total of 178 in attendance (including complemented speakers and presenters).

Committee Reports

Membership:

- Mr. McElrath is in the process of collecting the remaining 2009 Membership dues. Presently MERC has 73 member organizations with total dues paid of \$14,235.00.
- The idea of a MERC Brochure was discussed. It was agreed that the next brochure be virtual and available on the website. Mr. McElrath will report back to the Board in November of progress on the brochure.
- The Membership committee will continue to explore new ideas for membership levels and fee structures.
- Year-to-date we have 8 new members, 7 Service and 1 Corporate.

Community Cares

- Planning is underway for the 2009 Oktoberfest Celebration and Charity. The event which is September 24th is open for registration. The charity will be the Prism Food Shelter.

- Future fund raising events including the 2009 Holiday Gathering must be self funding. A number of ideas were discussed, no resolution were. The Committee will meet and offer a number of suggestions for the Board to consider.

Education Chair:

- The August 11th "Social Network in a Business Environment" is set with guest speakers and accommodations.
- Sherry Johnson reported that the last calendar event September 15th will be hosted by Wells Fargo Mortgage at the Downtown Minneapolis Campus. Our guest speaker will be Jerome Mayne.

Web Chair

- Mr. Waage reported that the Web Committee met on 6/23/09. The committee members include: Jesse Zettel who will liaise with the Education Committee; Michael Bartus, with the Conference Committee; and Shawna Brezny who will liaise with the Community Cares Committee.
- The Committee formulated their mission statement:
 - *"To procure and administer technology services that facilitate the organizational and membership goals of the Minnesota Employee Relocation Council."*
- The mission statement was unanimously APPROVED by the Board.
- New developments from the committee on the MERC Website include:
 - New LinkedIn page
 - New Facebook page
- The committee will work on ways to promote the new features.
- The committee is also looking into ways to subsidize upgrades through web sponsorships and advertising.
- Mr. Waage met with representatives from AMO regarding the introduction of their new product AMP. AMP is not an upgrade but rather a replacement for AMO. AMP has higher admin fees but does offer numerous enhancements. The possibility exists that the enhancements could be shared with other Regional Groups which could lower the cost, no Board decision were made. AMO will continue to be supported by our web administrator.

Next Board Meeting 11/10/09
Reporting John Allen -President