

AREA Board of Directors Conference Call
July 21, 2010
2:00 PM EST

Board Members on Call: Steve Marshall, Tom Lang, Nadine Meyer, Lea Gray, Judy Tumosa, Kevin Cunningham, Spring Riley

Absent Board Members: Karina Walsh, Shahab Farzanegan, Randy Honebrink, Angela Capello, Marc Sommer

The meeting was called to order by Steve at 2:08 pm EST. Andrea Faas joined the call at 2:12 p.m. Judy Tumosa volunteered to take minutes.

Financial Report:

Lea reported that:

- AREA current account balance = \$15,653.06
- Check sent to Marc Sommer for website work
- Tax reports filed
- Non-profit status renewed

Membership Report: (Steve reported for Karina)

No further information beyond last meeting's report of 125 official AREA members, with 2 of the new memberships being at the "Sponsor" level

Education Committee: (Steve reported for Shahab)

The LOI has been accepted for the Grant Application to AFWA for 2010 to fund an evaluation to look at recruiting and retaining more anglers. Shahab, Mark Duda and Tony Fedler will draft the complete application to submit to the full education committee for review.

Awards Committee:

1) Student Scholarships: Spring reported that the AREA Awards Committee recommended the following applicants to the Board for approval to receive the AREA Student Scholarships for the upcoming 2010 Conference:

Carolyn Behney, conference registration @ student cost of \$150

Alex Egentowich, conference registration @ student cost of \$150

Tara L. Anderson, conference registration @ student cost of \$150 and travel @ \$200.

Motion by Steve second by Tom to approve and award the AREA student scholarships as recommended by the AREA Awards Committee, with \$450 for the registrations to be paid from the scholarship fund to the conference fund and a separate check for \$200 for travel expenses to be paid to the recipient at the conference. Passed unanimously.

Spring will let the awards committee know about the board's decision, will ask Lea to transfer the \$450 to the conference account, and Ti Piper will contact the students.

2) 2010 Aquatic Resources Education Association Recognition Program: Spring presented for approval from the board the Awards Committee's form and categories for the Membership Recognition Program. People will complete and send the nomination form, along with requested written support of their nomination, to Spring. The awards committee will then choose the recipients. Categories include: *Exceptional Contribution to Aquatic Resources Stewardship Education, Exceptional Contribution to Angler Education for Children and Their Families, Exceptional Contribution to Provide Angler Education to a Diverse Public, Exceptional Support of A.R.E. Programs by a Member, Exceptional Support of A.R.E. Programs by a Non-Member.*

Spring explained that the committee is considering a New Member (rookie) recognition award to recognize someone new to AREA that has done a great deal to further the cause of the organization and aquatic education. The board thought that was a good idea but was concerned about adding that category in time for the recognition program to be completed for this conference.

Motion by Nadine and second by Kevin to accept the Aquatic Resources Education Association Recognition Program as proposed by the Awards Committee. Passed unanimously.

The board also decided and Spring agreed that criteria for choosing awards recipients need to be developed to prevent making it a popularity contest and to eliminate the possibility of controversial nominees. The Awards Committee would then use that criteria and choose the recipients without the need for Board approval. Spring needs more cooperation from the awards committee to make this happen. Nadine volunteered to assist and will send an example of a scoring rubric to Spring who will try and work with the committee to develop the criteria and finalize the awards process in time for the fall conference. The intent is to request nominations through the list serv to be returned by August 27th. Steve also suggested that Spring could develop the *Exceptional Support of A.R.E. Programs by a New AREA Member* recognition criteria to add to the categories.

Website:

Steve requested approval from the board to establish protocol to accept all suggested website modifications.

Motion by Tom second by Nadine to require that all suggested website modifications be sent to the President-Elect who will work with the President and Secretary to accept, discard or modify and vote (simple majority) to forward to the current AREA webmaster/business. The President-Elect will submit any accepted website modifications unless

they are not willing or able and then it will be the responsibility of the President. Passed unanimously.

October 3-8, 2010 AREA Conference Update:

Andrea reported that all is going very well in the planning of the conference with excellent plenary speakers, great field trips, a kids fishing clinic, great sponsors, and the USFWS session for the regional SFR coordinators to present federal aide updates. This session might encourage states with travel restrictions to give their staff permission to attend the conference in order to get this necessary information.

Another way to encourage permission to attend would be a letter from the AREA board to the appropriate person at each agency stating that the conference is necessary for the professional development of their staff. Nadine will provide a sample letter for that from NAI. Steve, Nadine and Tom will get it onto the list serv and tell people if they need such a letter, then let Steve know to whom to send it.

Confirmation to speakers that they have had their workshop accepted might also secure permission to attend so speakers should email to Tom Lang, Tony Fedler or Andrea to get that confirmation.

Also if existing or in-coming board members have permission to attend but cannot afford all the cost, they can request that AREA pay their registration fee.

Andrea left the meeting at 3:25 pm EST.

AREA Officer Nominations for 2011-2012:

Steve presented for approval from the board the "Aquatic Resources Education Association (AREA) Election Handbook", an official policy and procedure for AREA Board nominations and elections. The handbook would be posted to the website, requests for nominations would go out on the list serv, nominations would be submitted by candidates, and the ballots would be prepared for voting.

Motion by Steve second by Kevin to accept the Aquatic Resources Education Association (AREA) Election Handbook as written. Passed unanimously.

After some discussion to clarify logistical details, an amendment was proposed to the handbook.

Motion by Tom, second by Nadine to require that the candidates' nomination forms be sent to the secretary to determine eligibility. The nominations should include a brief biography about the candidate, why they want the position, and a signed Code of Ethics for Elected Officers of AREA. The secretary will prepare and send out the ballots with eligible candidates listed. Passed unanimously.

These new requirements will be added to the Election handbook. Nadine offered to send a sample of NAI's National Election Nomination/Volunteer form to be used by the slate of candidates.

Regional Coordinator Updates:

Nothing to report from anyone.

Other Business:

Strategic Plan

Steve reported that Karina has compiled the Strategic Plan "Goals Section" responses from all of us and tabulated the results in the emailed file. Now we need to go through the "Operational Planning" section and answer in the same format: yes (it has been completed), no (it has not been completed), ? (you don't know). Please get your review and answers to Karina prior to August 6, 2010.

Motion by Steve second by Kevin to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 EST. Passed unanimously

NEXT MEETING: By conference call Tuesday, September 7th, **2:00 pm EST**.

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