

REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF THE NEBRASKA IARP BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

Wednesday, August 29, 2007

Spezia Restaurant
1325 South 72nd
Omaha, Nebraska

Attendees: Lori Peterson, Paula Freeman, Dean Venter, Karen Stricklett, Lisa Porter, Gayle Hope, Amy Kremer, Jack Greene and Holly Berquist

Via Telephone: Bart Hultine and Michelle Hultine

1. Meeting called to order by Lori Peterson.
2. Lori Peterson announced the resignation of Ron Schmidt from the Board. A motion was made by Paula Freeman to accept the resignation. Jack Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Lori Peterson presented Holly Berquist as a candidate for Secretary. A motion was made by Paula Freeman to accept the nomination. Michelle Hultine seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Approval of Minutes of Regular Board Meeting of the NE IARP Board of Directors held on Friday, July 13, 2007. A motion was made by Karen Stricklett to approve the Minutes. Jack Greene seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Treasurer/Financial Report – Bart Hultine. The treasurer's report and profit and loss statement were distributed. A motion was made by Paula Freeman to accept the treasurer's report. Dean Venter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Legislative Committee – Karen Stricklett and Lori Peterson met with Lori Thomas, Legal Counsel for Senator Abbie Cornett regarding LR 197. It appeared that Ms. Thomas was not well acquainted with the role of private vocational rehabilitation counselors. An interim study will be developed by Senator Cornett in an effort to determine the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation services through the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court.

Statistics are needed from the Administrative Branch of the Court to determine the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation services. Lori Peterson and Pat Reilly met with Glenn Morton who stated that they did not have the statistics that Senator Cornett was requesting.

Jack Greene stated that it is important for IARP to stay aligned with the Administrative Branch of the Court. It was recommended that the Board and IARP members meet to determine the most significant problems encountered in the rehabilitation of injured workers.

The Legislative Committee planned to meet with Senator Cornett in September. The hearing for LR 197 will be held in October 2007. It was recommended that a general meeting of the IARP membership be held prior to the Fall Conference to discuss the issue related to LR 197.

Jack Greene made a motion that if a member of the Legislative Committee cannot attend a meeting with Senator Cornett, or related personnel, that Lori Peterson has the discretion to have another Board member attend. Paula Freeman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Fall Conference Report- The Fall Conference will be held on September 21, 2007, at the Regency Lodge located at Shaker Place in Omaha, Nebraska. Rodney Isom, Judge Cavel, Neal Wacholtz and Kurt McCallum will be the presenters. Rodney Isom will present on job placement. Paula Freeman reported that items were needed for the raffle. A block of rooms had been reserved for conference attendees at the rate of \$99.00/night.
8. Membership Committee- Gayle Hope reported that there are 38 members in the Nebraska Chapter. Paula Freeman reported that the majority of the Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors are members of IARP. It was suggested that potential members could receive a discount to the Fall Conference if they elected to join the state chapter.

Gayle Hope reported that the National Membership Committee was looking for corporate sponsorships. She reported that Florida allows attorneys to advertise on the state IARP website which has generated a significant amount of money for the state chapter. Lisa Porter voiced concern in regards to maintaining the integrity of the IARP website. She suggested that a disclaimer statement be posted regarding the advertisements on the website.

Gayle Hope suggested that a general membership meeting be held every three to four months. The membership committee coordinator would coordinate the speakers for these meetings.

9. NE IARP Website- Lori Peterson provided an update. A motion was made by Paula Freeman to approve the renewal for the website hosting contract. Dean Venter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Paula Freeman made a motion that a fund, in the amount of \$500, be established to pay for speaker gifts, memorials, etc. The funds would be used at the discretion of the President.
11. National Fall Conference Report- Paula Freeman proposed that the Nebraska Chapter contribute a basket for the raffle at the National Conference. Lori Peterson made a motion to approve \$100 for a state gift basket at the National IARP conference in November. The motion was seconded by Karen Stricklett. The motion passed unanimously.
12. Spring Conference Report – Paula Freeman reported that ESL vocational rehabilitation plans be considered as a topic for the Spring Conference. She reported that she had spoken to Mike Graham from California and Dr. Bob Anderson at the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court as potential presenters. She also recommended that the community colleges be included on this topic.
13. Paula Freeman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Jack Greene. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Holly Berquist, MS, CRC
Secretary