

NE IARP Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday October 9, 2009

Time: 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Place: Billy's Restaurant, Lincoln, NE

In Attendance: Patty Reilly, Michelle Hultine, Jack Greene, Al Marchisio, Lisa Porter, Gayle Hope, Gail Leonhardt, Steven Kuhn, Michael McKeeman, Paulette Freeman

Presiding: President, Pat Reilly

The meeting was called to order by President Pat Reilly. Minutes from the last board meeting were not presented for approval by past-secretary, Paulette Freeman. Minutes were presented for a meeting held on February 18, 2009 at Paulette Freeman's house, but those may not be the most recent meeting minutes. Paulette Freeman will look for more recent meeting minutes and notify the president.

Michelle Hultine presented the treasurer's report for her brother Marc Hultine who was unable to be in attendance. NE IARP has current assets of \$12, 547.40. The Fall Conference was essentially a wash (i.e expenses equaling revenues) financially.

It was discussed and decided that future events for individual members for which some type of recognition is due will be recognized with a card from the group in lieu of previous expenditures for flowers or other tokens. This will save the treasury money which can then be spent for our programs and member continuing education.

Old Business:

Programs—A Spring Conference is being planned by Committee Chairperson, Paulette Freeman. It was discussed and decided that the location of the Fall Conference at Comfort inn off of I-80 and 72nd Streets was both convenient and accommodating. Decision was to have the Spring Conference there as well.

Dates discussed for Spring Conference. May 6th & 7th was decided. We need volunteer team members to pull off the conference successfully for Facilities, Programs, Vendors, Sponsors, Materials, Audio-Visual. Etc.

Legislative Committee—Patty Reilly was heading up the legislative committee and is now acting president. She asked for volunteers to provide assistance to the group in reviewing relevant legislation and proposed legislative changes for the group. A call was made to all members. Please contact Patty Reilly if you are interested.

Membership—Membership committee chairperson Michelle Hultine lead a lively discussion about horses and other related beatings of dead things in regard to trying to increase our state chapter's membership. A national push seems to have lead to this discussion. Our membership seems to be holding steady. Ultimately it was decided that those who are in vocational rehabilitation practice in the state of Nebraska already know about the local chapter and those who find the mission of providing continuing education and dialog amongst like-professionals relevant to their practices already belong to this organization. Therefore, it was discussed and decided that there will be no active organized programs to enlist new members at this point.

New Business:

Speaker's Bureau—It was discussed that we need new innovative speakers and ideas for presentations to be presented at either our “Lunch & Learn's” or our bi-annual conferences. Discussion was held as to asking the membership for ideas for speakers or topics for the Spring Conference in May. It was decided that Lisa Porter would put out an email soliciting ideas from the membership based on their experiences at other conferences or from conferences from other groups they may belong to. Ideas discussed included: Alternative Medicine, Treatments for chronic pain management, ethics, etc. Keynote speakers could be related to uplifting, non-specific encouraging types of presentations that are more entertaining in nature. Ideas for speakers of all types are encouraged from all members who will be contacted by email.

Membership Directory—Pat Reilly showed everyone a copy of Florida Chapter's Membership Directory in which they sell advertisement in order to pay for the publication and as a fund-raiser. It was discussed that we might not be able to put together a hard-copy membership directory since we are all listed on the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Website already, however we may be able to sell advertising for our Ne IARP website as a fund raiser. This could easily add revenue to our budget and many national companies advertise in the Florida Chapter's directory, so we have a list of companies to approach for our website advertising campaign. It was discussed and decided that it would not be a conflict of interest to sell advertising on our website. A website committee will be formed with volunteers who will be solicited via an email request.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Friday December 4th, 2009 at 11:30 AM at Billy's in Lincoln, NE.

A motion was made and seconded for the meeting to be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM by Pat Reilly, President.