

October 21, 2015 Meeting

The meeting was called to order on October 21, 2015 by Howard Speight. The following people attended:

Howard Speight, Jason Sander, Carlyn Burton, Todd Bynum, Andrea Tran, Albert Liou, Tammy Pennington, Lee Eubanks, Keana Taylor, Betsy King, Ted Roe, Jennifer Sickler

Approval of minutes: Albert moved to approve. Carlyn seconded. None opposed. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Budget for Fall Institute was \$130,000 our income is looking like \$136,000. Fall Institute expenses are trickling in.

Beginning July 31 cash balance was \$263,357.23 with income of \$99,540.57 and expenses of \$35,188.09. The ending cash balance for August 31, 2015 was \$310,301.41.

Ted noted that our balance was high. As we are non-profit we could consider increasing expenses or decreasing revenue. Keana noted that there are still expenses associated with the Fall Institute that have not yet hit the books that should reduce the balance significantly. Keana suggested placing half of the money in a savings account. Howard tabled the conversation for later.

Membership report

No update.

Fall Institute Recap

Keana likes Moody Gardens but would like to consider moving to Houston. We can guarantee at least 20 rooms in Houston based on our experience when we held the conference after Hurricane Ike. Keana has a number of hotel suggestions.

There used to be more outside vendors the conference (like trial prep, court reports, document copy). Keana suggested increasing those types of sponsorships in the future.

Ted said he heard positive comments about speakers.

Howard said he thought the topics were too heavily weighted to the theoretical.

Albert suggested that those speakers with PowerPoint slides captured the audience, but those without slides lost the audience.

Location of Fall Institute

In 2016 we will be in Moody Gardens. Keana motioned to move the 2017 Institute to Houston. Betsy says Al Riddle did a large study in 2010 and concluded that the membership prefers to stay in Galveston. Ted says that study hinged on not being able to guarantee 20 rooms. That said, Ted personally likes Galveston and Moody Gardens has a good system already set up.

On a vote requested by Howard, the Board voted to hold the 2017 Fall Institute at the Moody Gardens Hotel in Galveston.

Upcoming Luncheons

We will likely have 70 people at Brennan's on Friday with Ray Ashburg. November 17 is our next date with Michael McCabe speaking, but we are still working on a place. December 10 will be our Holiday lunch at Reef. We are constrained to 70. We may have a string quartet. We may also do something else such as photos. We have speakers through January.

HIPLA Donations to Science Fair

Committee is requesting approval of the following:

1. \$1K donation to SEF (Patron donor)
2. \$1K prize for Ninth Grade Individual Winner
3. \$1K prize for Twelfth Grade Individual Winner
4. Approx. \$140 for award plaques for the two winners (upon provision of the receipt)

Howard moved to approve. Ted seconded. Carlyn comments that our budget for this event is about \$4,000. None opposed. Motion passed.

Committee Reports

Lee – Supreme Court granted cert in a number of enhanced damages cases. The committee will meet and deliberate.

New Business

None.

Next meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 5:00 pm

Dial-in Number: 1-302-202-1114

Conference Code: 986809

Host Code: 4431

Motion to adjourn. Ted moved to adjourn. Albert seconded. None opposed. Adjourned.