**MINUTES**

**November 18, 2015**

**MCDR Executive Board Meeting**

Attending:

Harold Cohen, Edie Guidice, Rob Ketcham, Ed Ketchen, Shelley Korch, Ashley Spooner, Tim Stranges, Barry Weissman, David Zoll

The minutes of the last meeting have not been completed, so the Board conditionally approved them, subject to receipt.

The Board approved the Financial Report submitted by the Treasurer. In that regard the Board also approved the following:

Approved the re-printing of new brochures. Cost is estimated to be $500, and that will include new logos, resolution of typos in the prior version. The new contractor will set the template up so that the logo can easily be reproduced, and used for e-mails, stationary and business cards for the President and Membership Chair. There was also support for the printing of a generic MCDR card with a place for an officer to write his or her name when engaged in MCDR activity.

There was also discussion of the web page, maintained by the Treasurer. The Board supported the Treasurer’s proposal to change the emphasis of the training page to allow links for videos, and we discussed the possible preparation of a video for use by the Certification Committee.

The Board also supported the creation of a page on the website for contributions for those interested in building a legacy in our organization. Contributions from donors could provide resources to hire people to do work that the volunteer members and officers do not have time to do, subsidies for memberships for students, scholarships, and training. Our Treasurer, Barry Weissman volunteered to draft a plan for legacy donations is a donor would be interested in such an arrangement.

Regarding the Membership Committee Chair, Ashley Spooner agreed to take on additional duties relating to the membership committee, developing contacts, following up and preparing reports. We also discussed using the e-mail addresses collecting during quarterly meetings to add to the Blast e-mails for MCDR events, training, certification and symposia. These addresses are also helpful for the Treasurer to generate invoices for the certification program.

Ashley noted that we have a contact list of about 500 names, 202 are members, 82 are lapsed. There was further support for procuring promotional materials, including mugs for distribution to support membership efforts.

There was a general discussion of reduced rate for membership for pro-bono mediators, and students. Tim Strange and Ashley will prepare a proposal and we will aim for a bylaw change to address adjustments for the last meeting of the year.

The next date for the certification process is December 5, 2015. The Committee expects that income from applicants will not be sufficient to fully fund the exercise. The Board authorizing supplementing the program’s costs. There was discussion of, and general agreement that the Board would not support providing the Certification process for free. However, there was discussion of whether it would be possible to approach MACRO, noting that there is currently no-state supported performance based certification processes available, and inquire whether they would make scholarship money available for those who would like to go through the process.

There was further discussion about the Director of MACRO’s support of certification and the need to ensure that diversity is retained in any future effort to license or regulate mediators.

The Program Committee noted the announcement by Heather Fogg of MACRO about a December 3 training on dealing with high conflict parties.

David Zoll reported on his involvement in an ongoing outreach project to contact parties whose disputes appear in the media to offer them a description of mediation and mediation based options. He is interested in names of newspapers available in Maryland counties, so that those resources can be included in a systematic review of media. If any member of MCDR and the Board can assist, he would appreciate this information, as well as referrals if anyone is aware of a dispute that might be considered for this process.

Respectfully submitted

\Shelley Korch

MCDR Secretary

May 30, 2016