

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

# **Monday, November 4, 2019**

**PRESENT**: Stirling Phillips, Barry Weissman, Janne Weissman, Merry Lymn, David Lewis, Ramona Buck, Laverne Day, Jamie Brooks Robertson, Liz Salter and Ceecee Paizs. Monette Goodridge participated by telephone.

**NOT PRESENT**: Charles Franklin and Thom McCloud.

After a delicious dinner prepared by Janne Weissman, the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Counsel for Dispute Resolution was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and concluded at 8:30 pm.

**MINUTES OF THE THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** Two Board Members names were incorrect in the Minutes of he October 2 meeting. The corrections have been made. Corrected Minutes were e-mailed to Board members November 4, 2019.

**Please send your contact information to Merry Lymn, Secretary at mlymn@verizon.net**.

Please include your name, address, e-mail, and phone number. If there are days or times that are good or not good, please include that. I will put together a roster with the information and circulate it to Board Members.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Barry Weissman presented a very extensive and detailed report. The report is attached to the e-mail forwarding these minutes. Please note that MCDR exceeded its budget by only $102.99. Nonetheless, MCDR's income exceeded its expenses by $272.01. MCDR has a$21,096.98 in a savings account (an increase over the previous fiscal year).

**MENTORING:** Barry Weissman reported that, on October 21, he met with June W. Dillard of the Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Service that reports to the Maryland Court of Appeals. That Committee has been looking for Pro Bono opportunities. Barry was hopeful that, at its December meeting, the Committee will discuss MCDR's mentoring program as a possible way for mediator/attorneys to earn credit for mentoring mediators. Jamie Brooks Robertson, Mentoring Chair, will contact June Dillard to discuss the possibilities.

The Board is against paying for observation opportunities. There was no discussion as to how to make this a policy.

Jamie Brooks Robertson, Mentoring Chair, will work with Ceecee Paizs, Maryland Bar Liaison, on setting up opportunities for MCDR members to attend Maryland Bar ADR committee meetings. Jamie will prepare an e-blast for Barry to distribute.

MCDR has many certifying videos. The Board would like to find out whether any of these videos can be used to satisfy observation requirements. No one was assigned to research this possibility.

**CERTIFICATION:** Ramona Buck's report of the Certification Committee is attached to the e-mail forwarding these minutes. It was also noted that University of Maryland School of Law and the University of Baltimore School of Law are both interested in working with MCDR to provide opportunities for their students to obtain mediation assessments and to role play in assessment exercises.

**PROGRAMS:**

The tentative dates for the quarterly meetings are: January 26, March 15, June 14, and September 13.

It was suggested that Laverne Day, Program Chair, contact Edie Guidice, Special Advisor to the Board of Directors, for suggestions regarding venues. The Board decided that it would like to hold one quarterly meeting a year in Easton, Maryland.

**JANUARY QUARTERLY MEETING:**

The Board decided that it would like a party/meeting in January. The Board decided that an Ethics Jeopardy or Bingo game would fit with a party and provide an opportunity for members to meet their ethics training requirement.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Janne Weissman, Membership Chair, sent letters to lapsed members and to human resource groups. In mid-November she will contact the lapsed members. Also, she will contact the human resources groups to invite them to our meetings and to see if they may be interested in joint meetings.

Two people joined MCDR in the last seven days.

**MARYLAND BAR:** Ceecee Paizs, Maryland Bar Liaison, reported that she mentions MCDR when she attends Bar Committee meetings. She suggested that MCDR nominate one of its members for the Bell Award.

There was a statewide committee to revise standards for mediators. The standards have been forwarded to the Court of Appeals for approval. MCDR was not notified nor did it participate. Martin, an MCDR member, did participate, but not as a representative of the Board, nor did he ever report to the Board or confer with any Board members about his participation.

The Board did not decide how to react or how to handle a similar situation in the future.

**CHARLES FRANKLIN:** Charles Franklin, Co-President, is considering taking on another role. It was suggested that he might like to do marketing and fundraising.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** The Board discussed the importance of social media. Co-President David Lewis will work on putting MCDR on Linked In. Ramona Buck will try referencing MCDR on her Facebook page.

**GIFTS:**  The Board decided that, in the future, speakers will be given a mug, two pens, and a certificate in a bag. Speakers will also be given a one-year membership, even if they are already members. In the future, speakers will **not** be compensated with money or gift cards.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** The next Board meeting will be in early January. David Lewis, President, will be contacting the Board with proposed dates.

At the next meeting, David will discuss pathways to professional development, links between committees and integrating activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Merry Lymn, Secretary