

ACOSA BOARD MEETING
APM
OCTOBER 30, 2008

Present: Debrenna Agbeny, Elizabeth Beck Ram Cnaan, Karen Gray, Alice Johnson, Terry Mizrahi, Ann Weaver Nichols, Kathy Rutz, Louise Simmons, Marilyn Sullivan- Cosetti, Tracy Soska, Lee Staples, Irene Queeiro-Tajalli, Charles Trent,

Prior to the Meeting:

Alice introduced Kathy Rutz from Taylor and Francis. Kathy reported that Taylor and Francis are very invested in society journals and show that investment through participation in such things as conferences. She also indicated that ACOSA had a great advocate in Bill Butterfield. The board also expressed their appreciation to Bill

Review of Minutes:

Ann Weaver motioned to approve minutes Marilyn seconded. Passed unanimously

Chair Report:

Despite it being a rocky year due to the transition in leadership and the change of the CSWE calendar, ACOSA was able to develop two newsletters and prepare for the APM.

Tracy thanked Terry for her work with NASW so that ACOSA could respond to the negative comments made about Community Organizing.

ACOSA immediate needs include:

- Creation of a Nominations Committee.
- Development of a strong Communications Committee.
- Membership is once again a critical issue and a strong committee needs to be developed to include recruitment, retirement and retention. At present the numbers of members are on a decline making the need for a membership plan even more important.

Committee Reports:

Financial Report - Charles Trent: Charles reviewed the Treasures report for Nov 1- Sept 26 2008- Assets equal \$45,704 and Liabilities 1\$12,034. Additional bills will be submitted following the APM (about \$1,000) and the auditors report and 990 for 2007 is on the internet.

Charles expressed his appreciation to Alice and everyone else who worked on the report. Charles moved the board accept report and Ram seconded. Passed unanimously

Tracy, from discussion with Charles and Bill Butterfield, introduced a motion to show reserve money as a certificate of deposit and for it to be called an "operations and development reserves fund". Lee seconded the motion. Passed unanimously

Symposium Report - Karen Gray: A number of papers were submitted for this year's APM, and the group has started work on a field event for next years APM.

Karen brought up the issue that ACOSA might want to have a presence at SWWR as it could be opportunity for recruitment. After discussion it was determined that for this year ACOSA would investigate a liaison with SWWR, but building its own infrastructure- rather than branching out- needs to be the priority.

International report - Tracy Soska and Lee: A concern was raised that following last years APM the relationship with Israel is still not formalized. Lee reminded the committee that those interested in forming a relationship, in Israel needed to make a proposal.

There was some brainstorming about building international relationships, but the question of defining a formal affiliation remains.

The board agreed that a stronger website might be a critical component to sharing resources and thus attracting international partners.

It was indicated that a community development conference is occurring in Japan and Lee moved and Karen seconded that ACOSA lends its name as co sponsor.
Passed unanimously

A suggested work plan for the international committee included: 1) discussion of a sliding scale and 2) opening up the membership so that members can join as a country, group, region or other option. If this were to happen, ACOSA may want to include a requirement that they participate in some way, such as writing an article in the newsletter.

Communications Tracy Soska: There was discussion about enhancing the website and supplementing the hard copy of the newsletter with an e-newsletter.

There was also a discussion about adding links and greater resources to the website, and it was agreed that Michelle would find links and post them, In addition, a chat group could be developed. Elizabeth volunteered to moderate the chat group.

Tracy suggested that the board return to quarterly conference call phone conversations.

Awards Committee: Marilyn agreed to chair and it was recommended by Elizabeth that the student award carry a financial amount this year, to help the nominee, Patricia Oh, with her APM costs. The committee recommended \$250.00, and the board agreed.

Marie Weil Award: Board members expressed concern that in the change over to Taylor & Francis that we not lose sight of the Marie Weil Award. ACOSA is not making a Marie Weil Award, so the Board discussed making the next year's award for the last two volumes (14 & 15). Ram agreed to chair this award.

Nominations: Karen Gray agreed to chair nominations and Lee agreed to help her.

Next year will need to elect both secretary and treasurer. In addition to nominations for the Chair-elect, there is a vacancy in each region, and we need two people to run from each of the regions. The following names were indicated as people having expressed an interest to serve on the board or that we ought to reach out to for board members nominations in that region.

Northeast - Sandra Doe

Mid Atlantic - Dick Cook, Michael Reich, Cheryl Hyde

Midwest - Michelle Kelley, Lorretta Pyles. DeBrenna Agbenyga

Southwest - Rick Hoffer

Mid Atlantic - Ram Cnaan

West Coast – Jocelyn Hermoso

OTHER IDEAS - OPEN DISCUSSION.

To highlight the importance of CO across the world and to provide opportunities for international interaction it was suggested that we set aside a section of the journal for community organizing or social administration work/ practice in the other parts of the world. Perhaps develop a common analytical framework that can be used by authors or develop author guidelines. The following people expressed interest in working on this: Terry, Lee, Michele, Charles, Debrenna, Irene, Yossi, and Ram. Lee agreed to convene the first meeting.

Tracy said it would be great if we could ask a student to identify SW faculty who are teaching CO, management, and policy and target these individuals and institutions for membership. Karen volunteered to supervise and donate student.

Reminder that phone calling regarding lapse membership has to become a responsibility for regional board members. It was reported that last year Bill sent Terry list of lapse and she was able to get 15-20 members from calling.

The following people said that they would look into a booth at BPD and act as liaison between BPD and ACOSA; Debrenna, Irene and Marilyn.

It was also suggested that people reach out to field supervisors

Tracy announced the following opportunity: University of Pittsburgh will be celebrating 50 years of COSA, making it the longest standing program in the country. Ideas for a celebration that can include a book, conference... are being explored.

The earlier ACOSA In-the-Field Event with the University of Pennsylvania's Netter Center for Community Partnerships in West Philadelphia was a great success, and several board members noted the outstanding high school urban nutrition/garden and after-school programs visited.

Motion to adjourn

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Beck