

MeRID Board Meeting

11/04/13

In attendance: Maura Nolin, Cid Pollard, Polly Lawson, Vicki Munro-Ludders, Lisa Trainor, Kristin White, Alyssa Gagnon, Sarah Littlefield, Susan Boundreau (via Skype).

Location: ASL Lab, University of Southern Maine

New Business (added):

- Group Health Insurance
- 1-2 Meetings scheduled for up north?
- April Workshop – Financial Assistance
 - Perhaps a MeRID Board meeting after?
- Dividing up duties based on interest.
- Lisa: Can we set up a committee to create a Standard Practice Paper regarding how to use out of state interpreters and how to promote utilizing local state interpreters.

Reports:

Sarah:

- Will be learning to use “Quick Books”
- Jillian solved the online Paypal problem!
- Lost \$2,500 from Reframing Retreat, still considered a great turnout and MeRID success!
- Earned \$884 at the Deafhood Workshop.
- Current MeRID Funds: \$17,074.39
 - Report from Jillian (website manager):
 - Cannot de-link Paypal site.
 - Will shut down Paypal and open a new account (maybe Square, maybe Paypal)

Lisa:

- Have not paid the past MeRID President for her RID Conference fees.
- MeRID policy states that we can reimburse minimum accommodations (travel, hotel, etc.)
- board members will follow up with former president. **DISCUSSION TABLED.**

Maura:

- All Board members please check your Gmail account and change log-in password.
 - Send new information to Alyssa when completed.
 - Will begin to discuss all MeRID related business using the gmail accounts.
 - This will provide a history of discussions for current and following board.

Recording Secretary Position:

- Gmail account has been created for this board position.
- Maura and other board members want to appoint Nick Dionne to this position.
- Lisa recommends a runoff election to be fair to the write-in nominees during the election.
- Ruth Vigna turned this position down.
- Checked the MeRID records for all nominees to meet the requirements of current membership “in good standing”. Will follow up with nominees by December board meeting

Student Representative Position:

- How do we appoint? How long is their term? What kind of student can we appoint?
- Lisa recommends that the student rep (when appointed) could have the duty of social media and networking (Facebook, etc.)
 - Maura also suggested adding a sub-committee responsible for Social Media and networking during the interim.
- ASL Club President could be a good candidate for student rep.
- Will require a bylaws amendment. **DISCUSSION TABLED.**

Region 1 Conference:

- Region 1 Rep (Janice Cagan-Tueber): Dates and location not yet set.
- Need ideas for Maine to contribute to the theme “RID Cares”
- Need ideas for fun events, presenters and entertainers.

Website, Paypal, Membership Tracking:

- Lisa added that Paypal is not user-friendly for older generations. Two part step: pay first, then register. Lisa suggests a different online payment system. Perhaps a “Square” account? Lisa adds that some payment websites will provide free services for non-profit organizations.
- Suggests a website that allows us to submit articles, workshop advertisements and “The Views.”
- Lisa suggests “Word Press”.
- Maura suggests keeping everything focused on the MeRID website, should simplify the website to add/remove articles easily.
- Alyssa suggests a website re-vamp to link everything into one website. Will cost money, but provides huge benefits.
- Kristen added that a centralized website will keep out of state members & agencies informed.
- Lisa adds, if the website doesn't keep interest and become a resource people stop visiting it.
- Maura adds, website was once top notch, designer changed the website and overpriced his services for MeRID.
- Maura wants all board members to research other affiliate chapter's websites and see what kind of things other states are doing.
- Alyssa: Perhaps create a website manager position?
- Nick: creating a new website will leave an impression on members and promote interest as a resource. Will also become a good starting base for the next board in the next term.
- Polly: Computers have become the “minimum” for most people, should continue to promote this.
- Maura: Need to create an option for members to receive information via online, OR via print, OR both.
- Sarah: **DISCUSSION TABLED**, board members will do their research and report back.

Connecting with the membership as a whole (how):

- Website
- Board can recruit membership increase.
- Ensure the focus includes membership in the whole state.
- Snail-mail message to current and expired members to reel in membership.
- Develop a new membership form.
- Offering workshop discounts for MeRID members.
- Pro-rated membership?

- Membership Incentives?
- Utilize Tanberg Conference Room @ Baxter?
 - Meetings with members all over the state (can gather at one Tanberg conference center)
 - Susan can become a centralized Tanberg Conference host and have video conference calls with members from all over the north.

Funding for workshop in the North:

- Goal is to have all workshops to be as self-supporting as possible before reaching into MeRID budget.
- Formula can be used to figure out the cost of workshops and how much to charge registrants.
- Members can utilize MeRID Scholarships for financial assistance.
- Maura: need a proposal for the workshop and rough number of attendees to present to the board for a vote.

MeRID Board Goals:

- Re-vamp the website
- State Conference
 - Where to do it?
 - Should be affordable.
- Workshops:
 - Legal Workshops
 - Other ideas?
- Licensure:
 - Big Idea: to strengthen the requirements to become Licensed.
ex.) Require certification: NIC, EIPA.
 - Laws for Legal Interpreting need to loosen up a bit. **DISCUSSION TABLED.**
- Group Insurance:
 - New changes to the law allows for the ability to offer a “Co-op” to receive a group rate.
 - Some northern interpreters make less money (accumulatively) due to the less amount of work available, therefore the group rate may need to include a balance for them.
 - Lisa will do research about insurance options and report back to the board.
 - Establish MeRID Board insurance; strongly recommended for lawsuits.

Until Next Meeting:

- Can we send a card from MeRID to Lois Morin to send our condolences for her mother's recent passing?
- Board members will check Gmail accounts and change information.
- Board members will research other affiliate chapter websites and come up with ideas for website changes.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Minutes By: Nick Dionne