MARC Board Meeting, February 1, 2020

Meeting came to order at 9:00 AM Central Time. Board members in attendance were Linda Schmidt, President; Brenda Fields, VP/President Elect; Bonnie Templeton, Treasurer; Rose Wagner, Parliamentarian; Kim Poling, Recording Secretary; Brittany Hillard, Foundation Counselor (by phone); Sandy Hongerholt and Birdie Elkofska, Co-communicators; Jill Richards and Jull Shull, Ways & Means Co-chairs and Debbie Vercellono, Jr. Past President. Also in attendance were Peggy Zimmer and Mary Houghland, MARC Conference co-chairs from Indiana.

Discussion was held regarding the difficulty of changing the MARC banking at the end of the MARC year. Brenda suggested we look into online banking. Linda asked Bonnie to check into the possibility of changing to an online bank. Mary pointed out that we need to make sure that the online bank is FIDC insured. Brenda said another deciding factor should be the ease of changing account holders.

MARC Conference was next topic of discussion. Mary and Peggy told us about the speakers they have scheduled (see attached). The workshop speakers have asked for a donation to their cause in lieu of payment, the committee will make sure these donations are within the $1500 budget allowance. There is a fall festival in town at the same time as convention that the ladies suggested would be fun for any down time. The conference committee wanted to hold a trivia night for the Friday night mixer, but that conflicted with ways and means. It was discussed and the trivia contest will still be held Friday night for ways and means. Saturday will be the business meeting, entertainment for Saturday night’s banquet has not yet been determined. The Evansville chapter will be providing the centerpieces for the banquet. Rose mentioned that there is no option for partial registration on the proposed registration form. Form will be updated to include partial registrations. The room rate for the hotel is $139.00 per night, there is free parking and free wi-fi. Mary and Peggy also explained that the total registration cost has not been raised, the $25.00 MARC funded discount is no longer available. Mary and Peggy will send out save the date cards to the board members prior to their state visits

Linda wants to find a way to make first time attendees stand out. Possibly with a corsage. Rose said she can make corsages and donate for the first-time attendees if Linda decides to go that route. Linda would also like to find a way to get the first timers more engaged. Mary suggested a scavenger hunt where they would go around the room and ask people if they spoke a second language, what their job is, etc. Mary will work up a proposed scavenger hunt to give to Linda. Linda would also like to give the first timers a small gift if we can find room in the budget. Her goal is to get the first-time attendees to go home and let other members know what a good time they had and encourage their friends to attend MARC Conference.

Linda announced that the 2021 Conference is in Kansas, October 8-10, at the Old Town Wichita Hotel. Rooms will be $109 to $129, all studio suites. Grease Sing Along Mixer Friday night, Saturday night’s entertainment will be the Heart of America Men’s Choir. There is shopping close by with a 10% discount. Jill Richard is in charge of workshops.

Jill Shull and Jill Richards reported on their plans for ways and means. Jill S. is concerned that the Foundation and MARC are competing for the same dollars. There will be a trivia contest at the Friday night mixer. Plan to have smaller teams and fewer questions per round to make the game go faster. The questions will test all skill levels. There will also be a Lug-A-Mug auction. States need to bring a drinking vessel of some sort with gift cards, cash etc. to be auctioned. Make sure gift cards are universal. Also considering creating a MARC mug to auction that will contain a free registration, a free hotel night and a gift card for expenses or some variation on that theme. The Jills will discuss further and decision will be made at the next board meeting. The ways & means ladies are going to invite Parker to bring ESA merchandise to the conference. It was proposed that the name be changed to The MARCet Table. Tables will be rented for $15 to members and $30 for non-members. Jill Shull will submit the paperwork to the Indiana Gaming Commission for a temporary gaming permit to allow for 50/50 drawings during the conference.

Amanda and the Conference team are working on local aspects for Hope for Heroes.

A lot of discussion about MARC rep visits to state conventions. Linda pointed out that the standing rules need to be amended so that expenses outside of just travel, such as a state not paying registration, can be covered if the budget allows.

Brenda gave her VP/President elect report (see attached). She is still looking for additional people to run for offices. She will be unable to attend IC this year. Her goals for her year are to freshen up the MARC web site, and increasing our social media footprint with the goal of increasing membership. Brenda will continue to work on getting officers and board filled.

Deb Vercellono gave her report. She feels that not being able to attend IC or MARC should not preclude people from being on the MARC board. Many meetings can be attended by telecon. She also discussed holding more teleconferences throughout the year to keep the board in touch and communicating. Deadline for submitting nomination forms is June 15.

Brittany joined us on the phone to give her report about Foundation fund raiser. It will be a fun event. 52 bags will be filled with items that are worth at least $5.00. Members can buy a card for $5.00 and then they win the prize in the bag that correlates to the card they draw. This was done at another event with only 30 people in attendance and they raised $230. Should not be a problem with gambling commission because members are actually buying the bag.

Next topic of discussion was the MARC web site. Kim handed out some suggestions for how the site might be password protected, suggestions for updating the home page and an updated MARC trifold. Kim will work with Debbie Frazier on the suggested changes.

Communicators Birdie and Sandy asked for the board’s articles by March 1. Birdie is concerned that not enough MARC reps and state presidents are passing on the word when the ReMARCs is published. Linda suggested that we add the question “Short of sending the notification to all members, what is the best way to get the word out that the ReMARCs is available on the web site?”.

Hotel representative Michelle came and answered questions and gave us a tour of the rooms we will be using for the conference. The reservation code is GMARC20. If coming early, make sure to call the hotel directly so that you can get the reduced rate for your entire stay. The hotel will split your bill upon checkout, just make sure you let them know when you check in. There was some conversation about shuttle availability during the conference. The shuttle will be available for airport runs. The hotel is also giving $5.00 in free play at the casino for all attendees. You will get a card at registration and will need to take it and sign up for a player’s card to get your $5.00 credit.

Bonnie presented the treasurer’s report, MARC visit expenses and proposed budget. Lots of discussion about the fact that we are running out of funds and need to stress the fact that there will be a need for ways and means projects. The budget will be updated with changes suggested and voted on by the board. The updated budget will be presented at the MARC meeting at IC Convention in July.

Rose went over the proposed changes to the by-laws and standing rules. Some additions and corrections were suggested. Rose will do the updates and send out to the board. Linda will schedule a conference call after the updated by-laws and standing rules have been sent.

Talking points will be sent by Linda prior to the first state convention visit by the board.

Birdie let everyone know that she is available to fill in if someone is unable to do their state visit.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Poling

Recording Secretary

Midwest Area Regional Council