



MONTGOMERY/PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY CHAPTER

Present:

Alex Dickey – President
Flora Milans – Immediate Past RVP
Eric Rasmussen – Treasurer
Jeff Cole – Co-Secretary
Corinne Dougherty – Webmaster
Tom Birchall – Meetings
Yehuda Schmidt – Programs
Hector Maysonet – Education
Carol Ann Boothe – Education
Christine Tritsch – Early Careers, President-Elect
Rick Amrhein – Early Careers
Kevin Shapiro - Certification
Dan Minger – Recognition
Bebe Oh – Awards
Donna Colonne – Awards
Troy Hailey – Community Service
Joan Hebron – Community Service
Danielle Rosemond – Community Service
Dawn Beatty – Accountability/Outreach
Andrew Lewis – Historian, Immediate Past President

November 29, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

Welcome/Openings Remarks

Alex Dickey opened the meeting with a welcome to all participants. Andrew Lewis recognized an editorial update was needed to the Board meeting minutes to correct a sentence in the budget/financials area. Motion for approval of the November 1, 2011 minutes were first and second motioned by Christine Tritsch and Eric Rasmussen respectively. The board approved the Board Meeting minutes unanimously. Roll call was taken.

Special Topic

Alex started the meeting with a discussion about events cash handling procedures. He gave some background about a joint event with the DC chapter held at Clyde's last September for a fund raiser. Apparently, pledges were collected by Stu Eisenman who was not on the DC board as a community service member this year. This caused a lot of confusion since Stu was going to provide the proceeds he collected to the Brain Tumor Society. There is some question as to whether our chapter should have been involved with this process. As a result, our chapter has reached out to Stu to provide some documentation on the funds. We know that Stu wants to get involved with our chapter but we need to get this fund collection issue resolved.

Therefore, Alex has asked Eric to propose a cash handling procedure for when the treasurer is not at an event where funds are collected. Eric went over draft procedures that he handed-out to the board.



MONTGOMERY/PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY CHAPTER

Community Services

Troy Hailey reported that they have been in contact with National Center for Children and Families but there still is no date for the holiday dinner & children's toys event. NCCF did provide a list of the people who will attend and the count so far is about 46 kids. An email update will be sent out when more information is provided.

Next, Danielle Rosemond reported that the Thanksgiving event at the Carroll House Shelter in Silver Spring, MD went over well. The donated food was delivered on Wednesday evening and drinks the next day.

Joann Hebron reported that volunteers from our chapter came out for the Bethesda Cares Lunch Program on Saturday, November 19th. Since so many volunteers were there from the Wash-Metro area our services were not needed. So, we will try again next year.

Corporate Sponsorship:

Andrew reported that he is working with Danielle. Since Terry Wilson recently joined the IRS, his role in the committee is limited because of government ethics requirements. Terry is excited to continue as a co-chair, and will be involved in the corporate sponsor recognition event.

Of the 6 firms from last year, four have now renewed their sponsorship and provided checks to the chapter. Ernst & Young's and KPMG's sponsorship is pending, but have not sent out the funds yet so a reminder is being sent out. There are a host of other firms that Andrew and Danielle are approaching, including prior and new sponsors. There are leads and interest from Rose Financial, Cotton and Company, and Allmond and Company. Also we have Becker as a new sponsor as well.

Becker has agreed to contribute a free CPA review course valued at \$3,000 as in-kind, which gets them to the gold level. Note that the free CPA review course could replace the \$1,000 college scholarship or be given to a chapter member. This can be decided by the board in a later vote. Another reason why Becker is interested in being a sponsor is that they have an online and on-demand training and CPE courses that they have to offer. These courses will be offered to members at a discounted flat rate of \$350 for an unlimited number of CPE courses for twelve month. Our chapter will get 25% of the fee and 75% goes to Becker. The \$350 is paid through our chapter and forward Becker their share of the cost who will then turn on the service for the member.

Andrew asked if members would be interested in signing up for this program at \$350 for unlimited CPE courses for 12 month. Kevin Shapiro responded that there are other competitors that offer courses for around \$150 that include government related courses. There is no downside to offer the program or no legal obligation to the chapter. Andrew said that other chapters offer the program and he will check with National about their concerns. (Andrew subsequently checked with members of AGA National, who voiced no objection to our chapter proceeding with this arrangement with Becker.) Also Andrew spoke with Carol Ann Boothe about having Becker at the upcoming winter workshop. Becker would make a brief presentation and be available at a table to answer questions and sign up members for the program. Alex asked if there are any questions or concerns from the board. Christine Tritsch and others were concerned that members might use Becker over the MPG chapter for future CPEs. Andrew offered that by comparison that MPGC may have an advantage because we can use government employees in training sessions and Becker cannot. Alex asked for a preliminary vote on moving forward with Becker as a sponsor considering the loose ends that must get resolved with AGA National and any other matters. The vote was unanimous with moving forward on the sponsor relationship. Andrew and Eric also discussed offering sponsorship to new corporate sponsors that begin in January at a reduced rate of half for this year, and a full program sponsorship offered the following year.



MONTGOMERY/PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY CHAPTER

Early Careers:

Christine Tritsch reported that the early careers mentoring event hosted by the directors of the DC, NOVA and MPGC chapters held on Thursday, November 17th from 6-8pm was a success and well attended. The RSVP filled up and a couple of people were turned away. Two speakers came out to the event and talked about getting ahead in professional careers.

Also, on December 11th there will be a NFL event at 1:00 p.m. held at the Barking Dog in Bethesda, MD. Come out and bring guests for "all you can eat" wings and beer at \$10 for members and \$20 for non-members. With enough RSVPs, we can get a private room. The NBA event in February 2012 is confirmed since there will be a basketball season this year. Registration for this event should be easy this year.

Membership:

Alex gave a brief report. Recently the chapter had a joint event with National on how to make our chapter more successful regarding membership. We will have to get a report from the directors and get it to the board at a later date.

CGFM:

Kevin Shapiro reported that he started discussions with the HHS program support center about providing a conference room for the spring CGFM training session that are being planned. Kevin provided HHS with details of the event and he is hoping to get a confirmation sometime in December. Then we can start narrowing down the dates, instructors and the registration process. A lot of this is being handled by NOVA so we just have to follow their lead.

Kevin reached out to National to get some information to provide to our membership. So when people come to the dinner meetings during January thru March, he will have the information available at the check in table, answer questions and talk to visitors.

March is CGFM month, so Kevin is going to provide a five minute presentation on the benefits of CGFM prior to the guest speaker. Also, he plans to redo the CGFM proclamation for MPGC in March. Andrew mentioned that Frederick County wants to do a live presentation this year. Corinne Dougherty will talk to a State of Maryland representative about a presentation to them. Members responded well to the request for used study guides and plans are being made to purchase a few new sets due to updates particularly for volume two. Alex asked Kevin about reaching out to identify instructors for the spring training. Kevin hopes to get support from NOVA and looking at other potential instructors.

Outreach/Accountability

Dawn Beatty reports that we have one team from UMUC that registered for the Citizen-centric Reporting (CCR) contest. They selected the State of Maryland to report on assuming the report is completed by January. The (CCR) will be presented to the MPC chapter first then to the State of Maryland. Also, Dawn plans to have a draft of the chapter's (CCR) out for review by board members by the week of December 12th. We should be able to meet the end of the year deadline.

Finally, the CEAR trivia night coordinated by the DC chapter is set for Thursday, December 1st at Clyde's of Gallery Place. Open bar drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served. However, our chapter has been asked to provide \$500 towards the event which was not budgeted this year. Dawn recommended using the funds from Membership that may not be used this year. Alex mentioned that DC funded the entire Trivia event last year and asked if DC could fund the entire Chinese New Year this year instead since they want us to support the Trivia event. Eric mentioned that we may under run some



MONTGOMERY/PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY CHAPTER

budgets in other areas to find the funds. Alex mentioned that we need to talk to Kathleen about tapping the funds in membership. Hector Maysonet, Flora Milans and others recommended that we should support the event up to \$500. Alex motioned to continue to support the Trivia event up to \$500. The first and second motioned were stated by Christine and Corinne Dougherty respectively. The board's approval was unanimous.

Meeting/ Programs:

Tom Birchall reported that they will continue to monitor regular walk-ins to minimize the overage of the hotel contract for food. Alex reported that Yehuda Schmidt is working on the January dinner meeting and is finalizing the guest speaker. Also, Alex mentioned that our chapter did meet our goal of attending the joint dinner meeting with NOVA. Eric said that about 25 percent from our chapter. Flora suggested that we may ask visitors to introduce themselves at the next joint chapter meeting.

Eric mentioned that attendance is down by 10 people for the months October and November compared to last year although we have nearly 400 members. Corinne said that she will send out reminders earlier before the meeting dates to help boost attendance. Andrew asked is pursuing dinner meetings still the right strategy for our chapter? Do we want to have bigger scaled events to attract more people? Alex asked could we be doing anything different or should we be holding a different type of event? Flora mentioned that National encourages meetings as a regular event to achieve the platinum level. She also suggested forming a small committee to look at the attendance issue. Alex agreed and followed with these are all good ideas, questions and something for everyone on the board to think about and discuss at a later meeting in a couple of months. Also a small group will be formed to include Andrew Lewis, Tom Birchall, Christine Tritsch and Hector Maysonet to meet to discuss suggestions for future MPGC meeting formats.

Education/Workshops:

Hector reported that everything is set for the December 8th workshop being held at the Shady Grove facilities. The room is set up for 80 persons. Corinne provided Hector and Carol with a list of 39 registrars thus far. Hector expects to increase this list up to an estimated 59 people through additional emails with hopes of 80. Corinne will also send out a reminder email as well. Carol Ann Boothe will provide the badges, certificates and other information. Hector and Carol Ann are meeting with the facility people and caterers on December 2nd to update and finalize everything for the event.

Website

Corinne will be sending out an email tomorrow about the winter workshop, the early careers event and upcoming audio conferences. Please let her know of any other events including the Christmas event. A reminder email will go out later on the workshop and Christmas event. Alex will contact Corinne about registering the NIH participants as a group.

Awards

Bebe Oh reported that there was a teleconference for the National level awards selections. There were three nominees submitted for the NLC awards. They are Bill Anderson, Pat Byer and Karen Hawkins. We should get some recognition for submitting the nominees.

The PDC awards nominees are due in February 2012. Please let Bebe know if anyone wants to help or be involved with submitting nominees.



MONTGOMERY/PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY CHAPTER

Budget/Financials

Eric Rasmussen reported that he is happy that we just received a \$2,000 check for PWC. Eric asked are there any questions on the budgets. We are under budget in all areas including dinner meetings, no free dinners claim. Eric stated that we have a budget error since did not budget for the dinner raffle or the related expenses. Alex asked for a motion to adjust the budget for dinner raffle. Hector approved first motion and Corinne seconded the motion and the board was unanimous on the decision to adjust the budget for \$200. Christine asked Eric if the check to NOVA for the BBQ event had been issued. No yet since he is waiting for some information before the check is sent.

Closing Comments:

Alex asked about any other discussions needed. Christine said she has been contact by National for SLIM in April. National wants to know who will be sent for next year. Flora asked who can be sent. Christine said we can only bring a board member from Early Careers, Membership, CGFM, or Accountability and no one can take their place. National is cutting back and this is the first time that the event is not in the Wash Metro area.

Alex ended the meeting, thanking all who participated.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm