

AMET Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Omni Bayfront: Corpus Christi, Texas

1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Noemi Ochoa, President of AMET, conducted the roll call. See attached list of members and guests.

Alex Dominguez gave the secretary's report (see attached minutes from May 4, 2009).

The meeting was called to order at 1:24 p.m.

Deborah reviewed Robert's Rules of Order.

Cecilia Cates moved that the minutes be accepted with corrections. Sigi Huerta, president-elect, seconded the motion. 100 percent carried.

II. 2009 AMET Review

Noemi asked that directors share what they have done for the organization – what has been an initiative on their part for the growth of the organization, anything that they have done to promote and advocate for the organization.

Before sharing strategies, Vicky Lopez read the AMET vision statement as written in the by-laws and Paula Renken read the mission statement.

Noemi asked that we think of the vision and mission statements in developing our initiatives on behalf of the association.

Deborah: As an AMET director I have become more aware and active for the plight of these families, students, regardless of the obstacles.

Noemi: If we don't educate our educators, counselors about the opportunities out there for our students, they won't know.

Noemi asked for an open discussion in regards to having the next AMET meeting at the TMIP conference held in McAllen – probably March 1.

Deborah mentioned the positive impact the recent National OME conference had in networking with migrant educators from other states.

An unofficial vote had about 10 people voting for having the next meeting in conjunction with TMIP. Travel time and cost was a deterrant for those people opting not to have the two meetings in conjunction with each other.

Another option was having the next AMET meeting coincide with the next ACET meeting.

Discussion was tabled and the suggestion was made that Noemi would check with regional directors on whether it was possible to attend the TMIP vs. meeting in conjunction with the next NCLB meeting. Directors agreed this would give them an opportunity to discuss the travel option with their supervisors/departments. Tomas will firm up his plans for the conference and contact Noemi so she can contact directors.

Omar Chavez suggested that we share conference notes/handouts with Valerie who could post the information on the website. Blake Powell, attorney, said If we have permission to do it, then no problem. If the material is created to enable the creator to make a profit, there would be a concern with copyright.

Sigi suggested that if a consensus cannot be reached, the meeting stay where we are accustomed to having it – in conjunction with NCLB.

Sigi asked if proxy can be given from one regional director to another that would allow a vote to be cast in their absence. Blake said that was allowable.

Lisa Madrigal spoke of the UT Distance Learning Program and BCLI as well.

Idalia Ibanez said as a conference host for Region 2 she has been able to raise the level of awareness to the community with regards to the migrant population and migrant education.

Noemi brought the group's attention to section 7.03 in the AMET bylaws: Duties of Regional Directors. Challenge for this year is to increase membership with people joining on their own, not just becoming members by default because they attended the state conference. There is a brochure available to download on the website to promote organization. Membership forms can be filled out online. Promotion of scholarships is huge for our organization. Scholarship applications this past year were very low. What can we do to bring awareness of the scholarships to our region. Valerie said the first two years we had over 100 scholarship applications. The third year we had 28 applications.

Article VII: Committees

Bylaw committee: Tomas is the chair. Tadeo Reyna and Omar also stand on committee. Tomas said they receive recommendations from AMET directors, they ask questions of the legal representative and then the recommendations are brought to the directors for adoption.

Noemi asked for volunteers to chair each of the five remaining committees. The fourth committee Program planning automatically falls to the president-elect to chair.

Public relations committee: Omar Chavez and Idalia Ibanez will cochair. Marketing the association, going to conferences, asking for donations for conference, maybe redesign brochure or make changes as necessary.

Nominations/elections committee: Vicki Lopez will chair. Person would take charge of sending out officer nomination forms. When they receive forms back, they would set up election booth/box, see that ballots are sent out and they would come back in, counted and election was taken care of. The regional directors are not voted upon by membership, but by service center.

Awards committee: Tadeo Reyna and Tomas Yanez will co-chair. State conference awards, i.e. NGS, recruiter.

Legislative committee: Deborah Huntsucker will chair. Person keeps up with legislation. What is OME proposing, what laws are coming down in education that will affect migrant students negatively or positively. Information can also be posted on website. District employees can advocate after hours, ESC employees cannot.

Scholarship committee: Valerie Peake is current chair.

III. 2010 AMET Preview

V. AMET Membership Update: Omar Chavez reported 975 registered last year. 504 registered so far this year. So our membership is down this year. Can't tell our true membership numbers until numbers from late registration come in.

Valerie Peake said scholarship will be down this year unless we get our membership numbers up.

Sigi said there is often a difference of about 200 participants from Region 1 to other regions where state conference is held.

Valerie Peake prepared CDs for each region to include 2009 member contact information so directors can begin sending information forward to active members.

Tomas mentioned that membership goes up and down each year. Is there anything in place that allows someone to buy a lifetime membership.

Can we extend membership for two years, instead of year by year, keeping parents in mind who only attend every other year.

Angela Lawson asked if parents are considered members, because qualifications according to bylaws, (Article 2) do not extend to parents.

VI. Conference at-a-glance: Idalia Ibanez, Region 2

She said it's been a very good experience in seeing firsthand the number of people that need to be involved at all levels. Build on talents of this group for next year's conference. She hopes to make it a very memorable experience for everybody.

VII. Conference facilitators: Mari Lester, Region 13

56 concurrent sessions on Thursday. 3 sessions per region per director that we are responsible for facilitating. Role of facilitator will be to thank presenter for their role in our conference. Remind participants that there will be an overall conference evaluation, not individual session evaluations. Evaluation is in bags. TEA just recently gave brochures to region 2 that are currently being placed in bags.

VII. AMET scholarships: Valerie Peake

Handwritten scholarship applications, only scholarship applied for, ask students to apply for as many scholarships as possible. Most of students who applied were asking for 13,000 to 26,000 thousand dollars. They weren't looking at community colleges, four year universities. We can suggest to students that they start off in a community college and transfer over.

The website from 4/1/09 to 11/08/09 we had over 12,000 visitors and they viewed over 22,000 pages.

Deadline for submitting applications this year is Friday, May 21. These students must be active migrant and enrolling in college courses for summer or fall. Mid-term graduates can qualify but they would not receive monies for that spring.

Application is usually ready on website in January and ready until May.

Discussion revolved around accepting handwritten applications vs. disqualifying essays just on the basis that it was not typed.

Paula Renken made a motion that the scholarship committee consider all scholarship applications regardless whether they are handwritten or typed; that the consideration of the committee be on the content, not on the way it looks.

Mari Lester seconded the motion. Motion carries by a unanimous decision.

IX. Exemplary Students' Scholarships: Tomas Yanez

New piece to the book this year is identifying the counselors who recommended students.

X. Budget Report: Sandy Burroughs

The balance of fall conference report was brought forward. As of this month we have collected over 90,000 dollars from conference registration. Uncollected McAllen conference has been cleared and reconciled with current budget. Sigi Huerta made a motion and Deborah Huntsucker seconded the motion to accept the treasurer's report as read.

XI: AMET By-Laws: Tadeo Reyna

Two sets of by-laws (white and blue packets) have been approved by AMET. Task before us is to consider attached recommendations on salmon packet - attached.

Article 2.03: First change would reflect membership year to reflect from conference to conference – no dates stated.

Article 8.04: Recommendation is that advisory members be given voting rights. Other organizations – Headstart, health organizations – become members of AMET at some point and consider granting them voting rights as well. This ties into 4.02 which would include two advisory members in the number of directors.

Blake Powell said he reviewed proposed changes and some minor editing was done on some of the articles for clarification purposes.

Linda Aranda made a motion to accept the revisions to the bylaws presented. Angela Lawson seconded.

6.06 on salmon should read board of directors instead of executive council

4.02 and 8.05 and 8.07 limiting appointment of advisory members to the discretion of the president. What if we come in as regional directors and would like some input on that, we would be unable to do that.

Blake said we could shift that responsibility from president to board of directors. Noemi said she agreed with that.

8.04 – wording. Could we change wording to say advisory members will serve on the board of directors with voting rights because right now we are limiting our members to two specific organizations. We have to identify duties and responsibilities for advisory members, so 8.06 would be amended if we had new organizations come on board.

Blake felt level of specificity was fine. He suggested that we recommend that the bylaws committee research this wording more carefully.

Noemi asked that we modify motion with four edits to 6.06 and 4.02 and 8.05 and 8.07. Linda Aranda has modified the motion as stated. Angela Lawson has seconded the motion. 100 percent carried.

XIII. Harvest of Hope: Phil Kellerman

Noemi would like to reinstate the \$5,000 donation to Harvest of Hope for the 2010 year. Sigi Huerta made the motion, Linda Aranda seconded the motion. The money is designated for Texas families only. 100 percent carried.

XIV. Update for next year: Sigi Huerta

Conference will be at South Padre Island. Committee is made up of officers, past host – Idalia – and future host – Omar Chavez.

XV. Update on future conferences: Wade Burroughs

The contract called for 960 rooms, we have sold 563 rooms and we had to meet 80 percent as a result we are faced with a \$15,000 shortfall also a food and beverage contract of \$33,000 and we will only meet \$20-25,000 of that food budget. We are going to owe the hotel more than \$20,000. The hotel said if we sign a contract for 2011 they will dismiss all indebted funds that we would have had to pay for this year. Headquarters would be Omni Hotel, not the convention center.

We would have to meet 600 rooms out of 760 rooms and meeting space charge of \$500. Those contracts were signed several years before we came on. Breakout rooms for concurrent sessions would be 8 large ones, two small ones, plus 8 more at the next Omni hotel. We would have enough space between the two hotels to take care of this.

Tadeo made a motion to have the conference here in 2011. Deborah seconded the motion.

Omar asked what preventative measures we could put in place to avoid this happening again.

Wade said we would sign the contract for fewer rooms. We have lost 82 room nights in the last two days.

Directors were told they could only stay two nights and then would have to move. Wade is going to make sure that we have enough rooms for that first night so that we don't have to move. Proposal is 150 rooms on Tuesday, 300 rooms on Wednesday, 300 rooms on Thursday, and 50 rooms on Friday. Wade is proposing that we move 50 rooms from Friday to Tuesday to give us 200 rooms on Tuesday, 300 rooms on Wednesday and 300 rooms on Thursday.

Noemi asked is there room for discussion with hotel in them not meeting our client's needs since clients were calling and they were told there were no rooms.

Motion carries.

2012 – South Padre

2013 – McAllen, Houston, Corpus and Dallas hotels promising room rates. Further discussion will be presented at next meeting.

XVI. Other Business: Contract with Valerie Peake for \$5,000 for scholarship/webmaster/newsletter.

Motion made and seconded.

A concern was raised with regards to conflict of interest with posting Path to Scholarship materials on our website.

Noemi pointed out that leadership camps are being advertised on our website, not path to scholarships. The discussion involved creating a resource page that would allow resources to be housed on this page, not on our home page.

Brenda amended her motion to say that we will continue the contract with Valerie peake for one year, with the condition that she add a resource page to house her links and the newsletter will only contain AMET news. Motion carries.

Elect officers: Noemi Ochoa

Deborah Huntsucker and Omar Chavez were voted in to take the offices of treasurer and vice president by acclamation. 100 percent carried. Point of order called by Tadeo Reyna, according to bylaws, vote needs to be taken by general assembly. Also directors need to send letter of support. Vote will be taken at general assembly on November 13, 2009.

Bylaw committee charged with changing bylaws language to reflect that board of directors can vote for officers when there is no opposition and that board of directors can

Open business revolved around allowing outgoing director and incoming director to sit together at meeting where power will pass.

Motion was made by Angela Lawson and seconded by Deborah Huntsucker to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 p.m. Meeting was adjourned.