

AMET Regional Directors Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 9, 2010  
Isla Grand Hotel, South Padre Island, Texas  
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

- Noemi Ochoa, President of AMET, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
- Tadeo Reyna moved to suspend the Robert's Rules of Order; Mari Lester seconded the motion.
- Noemi Ochoa conducted roll call was
  - Regional Directors in attendance: Veronica Burgoa (Region 1); Idalia Ibañez (Region 2); Linda Easterling (Region 3); Christina Richardson (Region 4); Brenda Thompson (Region 5); Linda Aranda (Region 6); Carol Dickerson (Region 8); Vicky Lopez (Region 9); Juan Carlos Martinez proxy for Dora Morón (Region 10); Mariette Burt (Region 11); Mari Lester (Region 13); Emilia Moreno (Region 14); Jennifer Rutherford (Region 15); Cecilia Cates (Region 16); Dick Van Hoose (Region 17); Aurora Dominguez (Region 18); Rose Tarin (Region 19); Paula Renken (Region 20)
  - Officers in attendance: Noemi Ochoa (President); Mike McCallum (Past President); Sigi Huerta (President-Elect); Wade Burroughs (Executive Director); Omar Chavez (Vice-President); Deborah Huntsucker (Treasurer)
  - Advisors in attendance: Tomas Yañez (Special Programs); Dr. Tadeo Reyna (Higher Education); Blake Powell (General Counsel)
  - Guests in attendance: Valerie Peake, Jesus Vela, Sandy Burroughs, Roger Rosenthal, Blake Powell, Ed Tweety, and Phil Kellerman

II. MINUTES

- Linda Aranda, asked to take the minutes in the absence of Alexandra Dominguez, distributed the minutes from the meeting on February 22, 2010. She asked if any changes were needed.
- Sigi Huerta asked that the second sentence on page 3 be corrected to indicate that the "Region 1 representative got upset that not all members get to vote." Page 4 also needed corrections to read, "If anyone else would NOT have a problem with that..."
- Dick Van Hoose (Region 17) made a motion to accept minutes with corrections; Mike McCallum seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously with changes.

III. AMET MEMBERSHIP

- Omar Chaves explained that we currently have 566 registrants for the conference at this time; however, many districts are still registering and he has received calls from directors saying that they are bring parents that are not preregistered.
- In the past few conferences, attendance has been around 1,000 participants; he is hoping it will be similar this year.

IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

- Deborah Huntsucker explained that Sandra Burroughs had prepared the AMET 2010 General Fund Budget and Fall Conference Budget reports distributed and asked Sandra to explain the reports. Sandra presented the reports as of October 31, 2010 (See reports attached).

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- Actual \$104,748.67 includes all funds collected before any bills have been paid; projected profit would be \$87,000.
- Actual 2010 budget is \$61,677.85 with no expenses to date
- Total Assets are \$226,077.71
- Deborah asked what the Insurance (Liability and Crime) entailed. Sandra explained that this liability policy is good for 1 year.
- Mike McCallum asked what the Website Host Fee was. Valerie Peake answered that it was the Vista Print Fee for conference registration confirmation
- Deborah made a motion to approve the budget as presented; Jennifer Rutherford seconded the motion. Budgets were approved.

V. AMET BUDGET

- Wade Burroughs tried to get budget approved before the conference instead of after the fact as in the past few years.
- Wade explained the Proposed 2011 General Fund Budget (See report attached).
  - Projections are based on 700 in attendance for a general operating balance of \$13,900
  - Professional Fees (Audit) used to be \$600 but it has gone up to \$2,000. Sandra said there are less CPAs that are authorized to do these audits for non-profit organizations which has made the cost go up
  - There are no Technology Improvements at this time, but they have been included
  - TMIP has been included in the event they ask AMET to host coffee break at Secondary Credit Accrual Workshop
  - Projecting \$13,900 balance is good considering last year we had a negative balance.
  - Hoping total revenue will be \$113,000 to \$115,000
- Brenda Thompson (Region 5) moved that the budget be approved; Cecilia Cates (Region 16) seconded the motion. Budget approved as presented.

VI. CONFERENCE STATUS

- Updates on Conference 2011-
  - Will be back in Corpus Christi, TX. at the Omni Hotel because they dismissed the charges (\$20,000) against the association if we booked the 2011 conference there. We will be at Omni Hotel (not Convention Center). Everything will be at the hotel to avoid the logistical problems we had last year. 566 people attended last year. We did not have as many driving attendees as we have had in the past so we can't have large projected numbers. We are projecting 500-600 in attendance so we should be fine to have everything at the hotel.
- Conference 2015
  - We are looking at proposals for San Antonio, Dallas, McAllen
  - San Antonio is asking us to have AMET conference in 2015. We can't get that contract unless we can get an approval on the funding for MEP. Currently, it does not look like Texas will get good MEP funds in 2015.

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- Wade Burroughs has brochures for San Antonio options for 2015. Crowne Plaza is at the state rate; The Westin La Cantera Resort is higher.
- We also have proposals for 2015 at Dallas Sheraton and McAllen Convention Center.
- 2012 is set for South Padre Island, TX.
- 2013 is in Houston, TX. at the Westin Galleria Hotel.
- 2014 back in South Padre Island, TX.
- Sigi suggested that we need to make money in our conferences. McAllen would not be good since we come to South Padre Island every other year; Dallas does not attract people so it is not good; San Antonio attracts a lot of people.
- Crowne Plaza is on the Riverwalk but not where people want to be. Wade had concerns that parking would be \$25 at the Crowne Plaza.
- Paula Renken (Region 20) said that at Solution Tree, they brought it to \$7.
- Tomas Yanez questioned that if we are uncertain about the MEP funding in the future, how can we book the conference that far in advance. Will they accept a contract that has a clause to get out of it if funding is not available? Wade said that they will have to investigate that issue.
- Roger Rosenthal mentioned that NASDME has that clause in their contracts every year. Roger will share their contract with Wade.
- Mike McCallum said Wade will work with AMET on contractual basis to get us that kind of contract.
- Mike suggestions that we table this decision until February 2011. Wade said he can't wait that long. Wade needs to pursue it at this time. Rooms are at \$118 for that county at that time. There is no such thing as State rate anymore. US government sets the rate.
- The Westin La Cortera in San Antonio has state rate at \$106. No charge for parking. Mike asked that if they are in the same county, shouldn't the Crowne Plaza be the same?
- Wade said "No". Corpus Christi had 3 different rates
- Carol Dickerson (Region 8) asked if we could wait and Wade said they wanted an answer on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> but he had asked for an extension of one day. They were going to have a space for us for 2015 only until Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Sigi asked Paula if the Westin La Cantera has a history with ESC 20. Paula said, "No".
- Tadeo Reyna said it is complimentary for \$14 valet parking for all guests.
- Sigi Huerta made a motion that the Conference Committee will make the decision; Deborah Huntsucker seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- 2010 Conference Status
  - Sigi Huerta thanked the conference committee.
  - Mari Lester (Region 13) explained that the conference committee looked at all the sessions and assigned the regional directors as facilitators starting with assigning ESC 1 director to session 1, etc. We have 4 open sessions since Christina Garza is no longer a director and Dora Morón is not attending the conference.
  - Facilitator will introduce the presenter and remind participants to complete the conference evaluation. It might be a good idea to allow presenters to introduce themselves. Take a few minutes to thank presenter publicly on behalf of AMET

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after we introduce ourselves as regional director of AMET. Facilitator also needs to remind all that there will be a general assembly on Friday morning. Let them know that our membership is dwindling and we need more members. If you want to switch with someone else, this will be allowable if you approach that person assigned to facilitate and ask if they want to switch.

- Sandra Burroughs needs help with registration tomorrow. Valerie Peake offered to assist.
- On Thursday morning (8:00-8:30) we will meet with our region members at AMET regional meeting. Even numbered regions will get to nominate and vote for the regional director. Ask them what their concerns are to bring to these meetings. If there is a nomination on the floor at that meeting, they must be accepted. This is when the membership has an opportunity to make a nomination. Give the names to Sigi or Noemi so they can be announced at the general assembly.
- Sigi asked for a show of hands for the directors that brought door prizes. They are to be given to Deborah on last day of conference.
- Sigi brought suit garment bags, umbrellas, and other items.
- We are to wear our red shirt on Thursday. Sigi will announce that regional directors with red shirts can provide assistance.
- Deborah Huntsucker mentioned that we should have the roles and responsibilities of Regional Directors to read at the regional meetings. Regional Directors will be seated at the front at the assembly.
- Tomas Yanez suggested that all directors discuss the same topics at the regional meetings and that the items be recorded on a uniformed form. Only the 10 regions that will have to elect regional directors will get this form.
- They are on website. You will get a copy today.
- Deborah asked if officers should be walking around at the general meetings. Sigi did not think this was necessary. Forms will be provided so every region can document the topics of discussion to be given the Sigi or Noemi.
- We also need help manning the AMET booth. We will make \$1 for every ticket sold.
- Carole Dickerson (Region 17) mentioned that she thought nomination had to be submitted beforehand because they needed director's approval. Sigi said they had, but if they wanted to nominate someone at that time, it must be accepted.
- Sigi asked Blake if a proxy covered the role of running a regional director's meeting. Blake said a proxy is good from one meeting through the next.
- Wade said constitutional by-laws indicate that an alternate had to be nominated in the event the director can't make it.
- Juan Carlos Martinez (Region 10) volunteered to get the feedback forms to Noemi or Sigi.
- Wade needs the numbers of participants that are present by region.
- Nominations were as follows:
  - Region 2 - Idalia Ibanez
  - Region 4 - no nomination for regional director

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- Region 6 - Linda Aranda
- Region 8 - Carole Dickerson
- Region 10 - Dora Morón was nominated
- Region 12 – No nomination
- Region 14 - Emilia Moreno
- Region 16 - Cecilia Cates
- Region 18 - Aurora Dominguez
- Region 20 - Paula Renken

#### VII. SCHOLARSHIP

- Valerie Peake announced that HEB donated \$12,500 for the runners up.
- A former exemplary student that is now a manager in public relations for HEB found out about our scholarships and initiated the donation. She was then invited to be the keynote speaker at conference.
- Valerie has made contact with 6 of the winners.
- She will post the scholarship on the AMET website by December.
- She is proposing that application be turned in by April 30<sup>th</sup>
- Applications should be sent to regional directors before submitting to AMET so the director can check that all documentation is correct. If something is missing or incorrect, director could send a message to the students before sending to Valerie.
- If we are interesting in scoring, Valerie can send the score sheets.
- Must be postmarked to regional directors by April 30<sup>th</sup> and get them to Valerie by first week of May.
- Blake Powell donated free tickets (\$100/plate) to attend fundraiser in Dallas at Flight Museum at Love Field; Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> (8pm) for Friends of Texas Public Schools. Blake Powell will be there. Must RSVP under Blake Powell for ticket to be good.
  
- Break at 2:30 p.m.
  
- Meeting was resumed at 2:50 p.m.

#### VIII. BY-LAWS COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Two handouts were distributed: One listed all recommended changes; other was the new By-Laws with the changes incorporated.
- Tadeo Reyna recommended changing (4.05): “No director will cast vote by proxy.” To authorize proxy to vote.
- Sigi also suggested that directors are allowed to vote my mail or Email (4.05): “Directors who are not present at meeting may vote by mail or Email on the election of officers or ...by phone or Email.”
- Mike McCallum asked Wade how ACET accepted the vote. ACET does not allow vote by proxy, phone or Email.
- Roger Rosenthal added that in D. C. there are laws that no proxy is allowed in executive board meetings but are allowed for membership. Board would not be allowed proxy for

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quorum or voting. But for meetings where all state directors vote, proxy is allowed. AMET is a large board and is equated to 50 states. NASDME has 10 executive board members; 50 states; and general membership. AMET has 6 people on executive board. Texas has a different law. In D. C. conference calls are allowed for meetings, quorums allowed by way of conference calls. Email is also legal. In AMET, quorum is 14 people. We could have some language about limiting the proxy. NASDME does not allow proxy to vote. An alternate is not when regional director is not available only when they bow out.

- Tadeo motioned that if allowable by Texas law, we should allow proxy to vote.
- Noemi asked if we could table it and move on.
- Roger said we could approve it subject to law.
- Jesus Vera asked for permission to speak. He reminded the board that this organization is unique and originally had taken into account that it would be difficult to get all directors together. ACET is 25 years old. AMET is only 5 years old. He was in full favor to have proxies as long as they follow acceptable procedures (in writing, etc.) set by this board. Then we can move forward on this issue. If a director can't vote by mail or Email, what good would the proxy be? We could say no more than 3 proxies may vote.
- Deborah asked for sample of wording.
- Noemi asked if we have a motion to subject a further approval by our attorney. Tadeo motioned as such; Christina Richardson seconded.
- (3.01) Regular Meetings. The Association shall hold "one general assembly meeting" so it needs to be added. Tomas Yañez warned that we need to be careful because we have 600 members. Noemi suggested we just add general assembly meetings.
- Linda Aranda (Region 6) motioned that (5.02) include the number of meetings that would take place. 5.04 will remain the same. Sigi seconded.
- Jesus Vela asked the rationale for having 2 meetings per year. Mike McCallum mentioned that they were connected to ESC meetings.
- Motion approved.
- Mike motioned that amendments at officers' meeting be approved. Tadeo seconded. Motion was approved.

IX. HARVEST OF HOPE (HOH)

- Phil Kellerman, President of HOH distributed the expenditure list for the year. Migrant Aid bumper stickers were also passed around.
- Phil is also the ESCORT Team leader for National Hotline. Only 2 people take all the calls from Texas Families: Alma Hinojosa and Phil Kellerman.
- Bob Levy director retired.
- Kim Muller is new director. She is former Mayor of town in NY. Hotline gets 10,000 calls per year. They don't get full funding from OME. Texas and other states support the Hotline.
- Kind of calls hotline get are: Kids looking for scholarships in Texas, work, medical services; many from the Valley need help with gas, tires, and auto services. Hotline never provides financial aid because they are MEP funded so the HOH get the default call. Hotline is an information and referral service, not financial aid center.

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- HOH has given \$838,000 since 1978. 60% goes to Texas families; 90% of that goes to Valley families. Phil said that the AMET donation of \$5,000 had to be for medical services and car breakdowns. HOH gets 200 calls for gas and tires. If they gave it for gas, it would be gone in 2 days.
- Mari Lester (Region 13) asked if HOH prioritizes to decide who gets funds. Phil said he likes to work with regional director or migrant advocate to ascertain that the family truly needs aid. If the family is on the road, he talks to the mechanic.
- In 2010 \$5,000 donation lasted 7 weeks
- HOH is much more involved in putting together fundraisers. Tom Romero organizes the fundraisers. He wants to recommend to AMET that they have a fundraiser in Texas. He just spoke to a Hip-Hop artist in Brownsville that wants to put a concert together. The artist gets the liquor money and HOH gets the door fees. T-shirts are bought for \$6 and HOH sell them for \$10. Kentucky had a silent auction that raised \$2,000. They sell coffee. One advocate wanted to raise funds for a migrant student that needed money for private college. He sent them coffee and they made \$750.
- It takes 4 months to set up a benefit. It does not depend on the time of year; but how well it is organized that will determine if they make money.
- National Center for Farmworkers Aid has temporarily stopped offering financial aid for medical services. This is causing a lot of concern.
- HOH will sell calendars for \$12 dollars. All the money he makes at AMET will go to Texas Fund

X. STUDENT INSURANCE

- Jack was not able to be with us and Blake had to leave. So the topic of Student Insurance will be tabled.

XI. REMARKS FROM PAST PRESIDENT

- Mike McCallum is very proud of AMET that has brought so much to our families. HEB and WAL-Mart give but it takes someone that will contact them. He knows it is expensive to come to these meetings and many directors are not permitting travel. He wants to thank Wade and Sandra Burroughs for all they do. \$30,000 is not enough; much of what they do is their donation. If you are a director and can't make these meetings, we need to let Sigi and Noemi know.

XII. REMARKS FROM IN-COMING PRESIDENT

- Sigi reiterated the concern that Mike alluded to, the topic of not being able to make it to the meetings. We do have low attendance for the committee meetings. Sigi asked that AMET consider paying for travel of committee members to committee meetings, State Conference Committee Meetings and any meetings. Suggestion is to have this by reimbursement for the officers, committee, and any meetings President calls; not including the local meetings.
- Deborah made a motion that AMET pay by reimbursement committee members at a per diem at allowable State expenses to maximum of 2 meetings. Tadeo Reyna seconded.

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- Dick Van Hoose (Region 17) asked what this expense would be. Sigi asked Wade what the estimate is. Wade said it was approximately \$10,000. Meeting needs to be where the conference will be held.
- Mike McCallum said it needs to have a cap.
- Sigi wanted it to be reviewed every year.
- No one stepped up to run for President Elect so president will have to appoint someone. If conference is going to continue, we need AMET to pay for this.
- Jesus Vela said the job of President Elect is critical and time-consuming.
- Mariette Burt (Region 11) wanted clarification that we are talking about only committee meetings (normally 2 meetings at conference site) only.
- Jennifer Rutherford (Region 15) asked if we could limit it to 2 meetings.
- Dick is there going to be a limit?
- Sigi answered that it was usually 2 days
- Tadeo seconded the amended motion
- Motion passed unanimously.
- Roger Rosenthal reminded that Wade could get free meeting rooms for the committee members when he negotiates with hotels.
- Sigi will appoint president elect so it would be easier if we have a conference planner. He needs a conference planner. He doesn't know what cost this person would involve. Not eliminating Wade (Executive Director) or Valerie (Program) or Sigi (President).
- Jesus said someone has to write qualifications/specifications and it must be very clear what is expected of conference planner.
- Sigi wants same committee for next year's conference.
- Deborah said we should vote on whether we vote if we have one and decide spec. later.
- Jennifer made a motion that Sigi look into conference planner/facilitator and come up with a figure to bring it to February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Regional Director's Meeting will be in McAllen at the same time of Credit Accrual Workshop.
- Deborah seconded the motion.
- Linda asked the difference between Executive Director and Conference Planner. Wade explained that the planner would take care of all the speakers and presentations.

XIII. SPECIAL GUEST

- Board Empowerment Training so directors can be empowered as directors was conducted by Roger Rosenthal from Washington Migrant Advocate.
- Roger began by saying he was honored to be here and be asked to speak. He brings us the national perspective to see what we do for our migrant students and families as so important.
- Global perspective-Roger has always viewed us in Texas as the "real deal". Our families travel the most (to 48 States). Most are in deep poverty and live in very bad conditions simply to survive and get groceries in homes where they don't even eat; to have shelter; and these are folks that in good times don't get benefits of what they harvest. Think about what is on the table of Thanksgiving Day that was picked by our migrant families. Those of us that were considered middle class are having trouble making it. Think about



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the migrant workers that can't even make it in "good times". They get their money from growers that are reducing number of workers due to economic times. We might not be hearing it a lot because these families are proud and those that were doing badly are having harder times. Immigration is a mental health issue now because everyone is nervous now. We won't see any immigration reform for at least 2 years, probably 4 or 6 years. Johan Huerta, NASDME scholarship recipient, because he is US citizen and gets food stamps gives his stamps to uncle and aunt that are having a harder time and don't qualify for food stamps.

- We are the linchpin for migrant education in this country. Texas has more farmworkers that impact nationally because those in California mostly stay in California. Our involvement in this regional group serves as the leaders of the Texas MEP. Christina Villarreal is in Austin and is the government leader but we are where the rubber hits the road and we guide the local directors on how their funds are used. No other State organization, including in California that has created a non-profit organization to provide support and advocacy for our families. It must succeed because if it fails, the quality of our program makes a difference in the entire country. Interstate program (TMIP) works outside of our State. Each of us has fiduciary responsibility to our State. It is not just attending meetings, it is more than that. We must figure out within the structure of our lives what we need to do to support and advocate for our families. How can we make this organization stronger? It must exist more than 2-5 years. NASDME is also thinking about conference attendance going down and they depend on this funding to exist. We are in a situation where we can contribute to continue activities to help the migrant families. This conference "At the Beach" can energize us to re-dedicate ourselves. We know how to get around a lot of barriers because we see them daily and firsthand.
- NASDME came up with this theme: Celebrate what we do; Educate other people; Be inspired
- All of us will be thought of better for having done this in this organization.

#### XIV. CLOSURE

- Noemi asked that for the next 3 days we show a united front.
- Sigi thanked Noemi for last few years.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.