

## **MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

### **Zoom Conference Call**

**Monday, June 22, 2020**

Board President Dennis Reilly called the meeting to order shortly after 12:30 CDST.

Present: President Dennis Reilly, Vice President Barry Fick, Past President Harry Huntley, Treasurer Don Templeton for a portion of the meeting, Secretary Rebecca Floyd and Directors Corinne Johnson, Carol Johnson, Martin Walke and Mark Heller. NAHEFFA members Maribeth Wright and Mike Stanard were on the Zoom conference call, along with NAHEFFA Washington Advocate, Chuck Samuels.

#### **I. April 29, 2020 Minutes**

Dennis asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 29, 2020 Board meeting. Barry made a motion to approve the minutes from April 29, 2020 and Mark seconded. The minutes were approved without additional discussion.

#### **II. Fall 2020 Milwaukee Conference**

Dennis reported that the Conference Committee met on Friday June 19, and that following discussion of the various options available, the Committee recommends the Board defer the in-person fall 2020 Milwaukee conference to Sept 15-17, 2021. In addition, the Committee recommends a virtual fall 2020 conference be held September 16-17, 2000. Dennis reminded the group the spring 2021 conference in Washington, D.C. has been scheduled and the Committee will move forward with spring 2022 in Charleston, SC.

Dennis advised that the Milwaukee hotel has been extremely accommodating. The hotel has agreed to reschedule the conference to 2021 with no penalties, including having the \$3,250 deposit transferred to the new dates and all pricing would remain the same. He said he is still waiting to hear back regarding the \$1,555 deposit for the Thursday night conference reception, but has not been able to connect with the owner. The request will be to have this deposit returned or transferred to the new 2021 dates.

Dennis asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board? Barry responded saying Dennis had done an exceptional job pushing everything to fall 2021. All agreed it was better to make the fall conference decision now rather than waiting.

Dennis asked for a motion to accept the Conference Committee's recommendation to move the in-person fall conference to September 15-17, 2021 and host a virtual conference September 16-17, 2020. Mark made the motion to accept the recommended actions and Martin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dennis then said that given the virtual conference format and the flexibility it allows, that it might be possible to get some high-level speakers to present. The Conference Committee will also discuss ways to work in Sponsors to the virtual conference. Barry relayed that many other organizations, such as GFOA, NABL and others are recording presentations so individuals can watch play-back sessions at their convenience, and this seems to be a popular option.

Barry said a GFOA panel he was on recently was recorded, and that he personally had no concerns about being recorded. Martin said he was one of the individuals who had reservations about recording presentations believing it might have a chilling effect on some speaker's comments, but that he could be persuaded otherwise if the consensus is people want this option. He asked Chuck for his thoughts, and Chuck responded saying sometimes the governmental speakers and others have commented that they can be more frank if they know they are not being recorded or that no media is present. He went on to say that regardless, this is a new world, and it may be desirable to give more people the opportunity to watch presentations as they are able to do so.

Martin suggested conducting the upcoming NAHEFFA webinar as a Beta test to determine how many members participate live saying that if the majority of the membership participate live then perhaps we might be comfortable proceeding with no recordings for video play-back.

Don Templeton joined by phone at 11:50 and Dennis summarized the prior discussion.

### **III. Strategic Implementation Operations Committee**

Dennis asked Maribeth Wright, Chair of the Strategic Implementation Operations (SIO) Committee to provide her report. Mark Heller, a candidate for the Operations Director position dropped off the call.

Maribeth informed the group that they posted the NAHEFFA Operations Director position and criteria and received five applications for the position. She, Mike, and Dennis reviewed the applications electing not to interview one person who was interested in more of a conference consulting only role. It was noted that Don Templeton was part of the SIO Committee initial planning meetings but removed himself from the interview process due to a conflict of interest.

Maribeth reviewed the qualifications the SIO Committee was seeking and said this was not an easy decision as all the candidates they interviewed were qualified, and long discussions ensued after each Zoom interview. The SIO Committee determined that candidate Sherrie Wise had a slight advantage in conference administration and management and she shared some strong ideas for virtual conferences and educational sessions, membership development, along with some website

and technology skills, and advised that they believed she would serve as a good public representative for NAHEFFA.

Dennis noted her strong background in the criteria NAHEFFA is seeking and said that she has done conference planning in the past and currently works approximately ten hours a week for Orrick Herrington. Chuck Samuels inquired if the Retention Agreement for the Operations Director had either a confidentiality or conflicts of interest clause. Maribeth confirmed the Retention Agreement has language for both. Maribeth also stated Sherrie has legislative experience as well, providing bill tracking and certain other legislative services for Orrick. She lives in Couer d'Alene, Idaho. Mike said she has some experience with a California finance entity as well. Dennis reiterated that they were all good candidates, and Mike agreed, stating that Sherrie emerged as the person with the strongest overall skill set for the position. Maribeth said they plan to have her contract employment start August 1, 2020 at an annual contract fee of \$35,000. Mike Stanard recommended an earlier start date to allow more time to assist with the virtual conference. The Board agreed to a July 1, 2020 start date for Sherrie.

Dennis noted that all the candidates had some sort of connection to NAHEFFA.

Dennis asked for a motion to approve the SIO Committee hiring recommendation and Martin moved to accept the SIO Committee recommendation of Sherrie Wise/Wise Management to serve as the new NAHEFFA Operations Director and Barry seconded. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Dennis asked if there was any additional business for the Board. Barry asked if going forward we should think about adopting some sort of conflicts policy that would preclude NAHEFFA Members from applying for NAHEFFA positions? Dennis said the SIO Committee thought about and discussed potential conflicts of interest and stated the Board should discuss this at a later date.

Chuck commended Chris Meister for his participation on an SEC video presentation noting it was an extremely well prepared presentation and then mentioned the MSRB/EMMA shot clock noting that Barry and New Jersey Health's Eric Brophy had offered to provide comments and thoughts on those issues on behalf of NAHEFFA.

Martin asked Don Templeton to give an update on his conversation with the West Virginia Director. Steve Corbin chimed in saying he was now filling in for Don and said that he believes WV intends to re-engage with NAHEFFA. Chuck said after the last NAHEFFA webinar, he had a had a long conversation with her, and encouraged her to get involved with NAHEFFA. Steve said he would have Don provide the group some additional information.

Dennis made a last call for additional business and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at 12:17 CDST.