

NFRBMEA Board Meeting Conference Call Minutes

1:30 p.m. Tuesday February 20, 2018

1. Call to order- In attendance, Betsy Jensen, Tina Lebrun, Brad Sirianni, Bruce Fowler, Deb Pike, Barry Kurtz, Lori Tonak, David Gillman, Myron Oftedahl, Maria Graziani
2. Additions or corrections to the Agenda- None
3. Secretary's Report- Betsy Jensen, Lori moved to approved the minutes, seconded by David, all voted in favor
4. Treasurer's Report- Myron Oftedahl, Brad moved to approve, seconded by David, all voted in favor.
 - a. Check book balance \$14,675.84, which includes \$3692.15 from the Des Moines conference
 - b. Has paid the \$2,000 membership dues for the national council
 - c. Mobile deposit is coming soon
 - d. Bob Rhea has signed the contract for the 2019 conference and they required a \$1,000 deposit. That is new, and we need to remember than when finalizing the bill.
 - e. The credit card is working well for the conference planning. Myron has looked into getting a second card, but it would split our credit limit, and could make it difficult to charge large purchases.
5. Communications Director's Report- Deb Pike
 - a. Membership- as of today, 63 regular members, 6 affiliate, and 1 honorary, compared to 93 total members last year. We are down 23 members from a year ago. *We have not yet sent our reminder letters and Brad and Deb will work together on that.*
 - b. No report for website. Nothing to put on conference website.
6. 2018 Conference- Maria, Sarah & Barry
 - a. We discussed the final speaker list, and Maria is hoping to include some speakers about farm viability topic.
 - b. We would like the online registration available by mid-March. Maria will be working to finalize the fees, and determine final registration costs and 1 day registration costs.
 - c. Maria also looked at touring options. Hershey World and Museum offers many opportunities for families to visit, and it was decided not to include them on the tour day, but make it available for families to attend on different conference days if they wished to go on their own.
 - d. Gettysburg is a pre- or post- conference tour that may interest many attendees. Maria is working to obtain group rates for Gettysburg and Hershey, allowing attendees to buy discounted tickets and tour when able.
 - e. A/V: all the screens are no charge. They typically bring screens into the room. There is a projector in the main meeting room, and Maria will let us know if more projectors are needed. If members can bring projectors, it will save money at the conference.
 - f. Deb would like preliminary information to include on the website
 - g. Hotel is \$129/night and should be booked by attendees
 - h. Maria will give the list of speakers to the hotel, and we will pay for the rooms directly.
 - i. The complimentary self-parking in the Walnut street parking garage is an unusual benefit, according to the hotel. It is supposed to cost \$10/day.

The Hilton is pleased to offer the following Special Concessions to the National Farm Business Management Conference:

- Complimentary standard WiFi throughout the hotel, public space and guest rooms. Does not include streaming at this time.
- Two (1) bedroom *Executive Suites complimentary arriving 6/9 5 nights.
*includes parlor and one connecting bedroom.
- Ten Jr. Suites available at the group rate.
- Five Welcome Vip Amenity's sent to the attendees of your choosing.
- Complimentary self parking in the Walnut street parking garage attached to the Hotel.
- A \$500 credit to the master bill (tax/gratuity responsibility of the Conference)

7. 2019 Conference—Brad

- a. The location was approved at the fall 2017 board meeting. The committee negotiated with the hotel for \$135 per night which includes water park passes.
- b. There may not be as much space as we've had in the past but they are very accommodating and will work with us to make the space work. This conference will include extension personnel.
- c. Please share any ideas about speakers

8. National Council report- Lori

- a. Had a canceled conference call last year
- b. Will have a Face to Face meeting in Indianapolis at the end of March
- c. The Council is discussing ideas to devote more funds towards post-secondary and adult education.

9. CHS Grant application & scholarships, Sponsors-Tina, We had application in for conference sponsorship and scholarship attendance and both were denied. Tina met with William Nelson from CHS Foundation and was told that funding is limited. Deb and Tina have received inquiries from people who are interested in receiving the scholarship, and unfortunately we don't have the funds available. NAFBAS has a \$3500 commitment from John Deere, which we did not have last year. Tina and Maria have materials available for vendors and sponsorship if you need them. If you have ideas on sponsors, or scholarship dollars, please forward the information to Tina. Lori will look into USDA opportunities.

10. NUTS & BOLTS- Next issue information due March 16

- a. The last issue was great, lots of good information
- b. *For the next issue, let's discuss "The New Normal" with articles to Deb by March 16. Make sure to include graphics and photos if necessary.*

11. Distinguished Service & Distinguished Service Friend awards

- a. Distinguished Service Award- Member: (names omitted)
- b. Distinguished Service Award- Friend: (names omitted)
- c. Betsy will order the plaques, after checking with Rodney.

12. 2017-2018 Annual Report, *reports due to Deb by April 27, but you don't have to wait until April 27.*

Adjourned by Myron, Seconded by David at 3:31 pm.

Betsy Jensen, Secretary