

Member Services Committee Meeting, January 19, 2023, 9:30am

Fall Conference Evaluations – **INFORMATIONAL** (Chris Ward)

Chris reviewed the evaluations with the group. Group discussed complaints regarding holding the Pledge of Allegiance prior to meals. Group discussed whether they felt it was appropriate to have this. Group recognized that invocations prior to the meeting have been removed and discussed whether this needed to be done for the Pledge of Allegiance as well. Group agreed by consensus to continue to keep the Pledge. Suggestion to include a welcome from Tribes. Group agreed by consensus that this could be added at conferences held on tribal land. Group also discussed adding a statement regarding this into the brochure. Chris will do this. Group then discussed prayer being a possible violation of DEI. Bob Sheehan stated that trying to have an invocation that includes all religions is near impossible. Craig stated that having a generalized prayer can also cause problems. General consensus among the group was to continue to not have a religious invocation. Cathy then spoke about food concerns – steak being an item that is too varied as to doneness. Chris will keep this in mind when choosing meals. Nena asked if all presenters received feedback from these evals. Chris stated that they did.

Discussion RE: Changing end time of Conferences from 2pm to 1pm – **INFORMATIONAL** (Chris Ward) *Added discussion on possible change of Winter Conference location.

Bob Sheehan stated that conferences slated to end at 2pm have traditionally started the speakers a tad early to try to end earlier than 2pm – possibly 1:30ish. Chris informed the committee that the upcoming Winter Conference will be adjourning at 1:30 with the closing keynoter slated to start at 12:30. Group discussed if this would help to solve the issues and concerns with the previous adjournment time of 2pm. Cathy Kellerman asked if we could give a message to conference attendees that is hurtful to the presenter when attendees leave early. Bob stated that it would need to be worded so as not to sound scolding or lecturing. Carl asked if an extremely dynamic person could be added as the closing speaker. Chris agreed that she tries to put the strongest speaker as the closing keynoter. Craig stated that most of the speakers know that if they ask for, or are put in, the last time slot, many attendees might leave early. Cathy stated that writing a paragraph on staying for the last plenary could be created, sent to Directors, and have them share at their CMH Board meetings.

Group then discussed the potential of changing the Winter conference location to Grand Rapids from Kalamazoo. Carl Rice stated that the Amway in Grand Rapids is not the most consumer-friendly location due to barriers for those in wheelchairs accessing meeting rooms on different levels. He stated that Kalamazoo has traditionally seen lower numbers for the Winter Conference due to weather related issues. Chris is scheduled to tour the Muskegon Event Center in March so that may be an option. Chris stated that the Winter Conference has historically been between 300-400, so this current conference is on track for those numbers. Bob Sheehan stated that this is good news for our attendance as all numbers are down overall due to the post pandemic work world. Chris stated that we are contracted with the Radisson through 2025, so we can continue to monitor numbers and look elsewhere for 2026 if the Committee chooses to do so. She suggested the committee narrow down what locations they would like for her to look at. Wil wondered what options were available in the lower half of Michigan. Chris said that Detroit is really the only other options since Novi and Lansing do not meet the Association's needs. Chris stated that the Amway in Grand Rapids is not agreeable by our membership with lots of negative feedback on accessing meeting rooms, even for those without disabilities. Group wondered about Crystal Mountain. Chris stated they have a 300-person maximum, so too small. Port Huron area has hotel limitations, so that is not feasible. Craig stated that he went to a conference at Cobo Hall, and stayed at the Huntington across the street, which was easy access. Chris can investigate this option, but it is very expensive, and she would like to check with Directors on what they thought projected attendance may be due to that increase in pricing. Chris will send a survey out to see how the Directors feel about this possible shift. Melissa Hall stated that the UP would like to see the Grand Traverse area as a possibility as well for consideration as a Winter Conference location due to its centralized location for the entire state.

Officer Elections Procedures – **INFORMATIONAL** (enc)

Update – Bob Sheehan

Bob reviewed this document, stating that items 13 and 14 were added to address the issue of when a member asks the totals from Elections. Also, the removal of Immediate Past President verbiage in Items 11 and 12 was reviewed. Group agreed that these changes were agreeable.

Group voted to accept the changes as presented.

Go To Bat Award – **ACTION ITEM** (enc) *Added discussion for award to be presented to Senator Debbie Stabenow

Senator Ed McBroom – UP Region

Senator Rick Outman – Western Region

Vicki Suder – Metro Region

Group discussed the nominees and their merits as identified in the supporting documentation. Craig Reiter gave brief details on Senator McBroom. Tammy Warner gave brief details on Senator Outman which mirrored some of the efforts of Senator McBroom. Dana Lasenby then gave background information on Vicki Suder, what she has been involved with, leadership she has seen over the years, and daily examples of Vicki's selfless actions within Oakland Community Health Network as an advocate. Bob stated that the Go To Bat Award has to be staff outside of the CMH system. He recommended Ms. Suder be nominated for the David LaLumia Award. Group agreed to remove this nomination from consideration.

Group voted to present the Go To Bat award to Senator Rick Outman at the 2023 Winter Conference, amended to also present the award to Senator Ed McBroom as well.

Discussion – Craig Reiter stated that he would like to see both Senators receive this award. He asked if Joe Stone would be willing to amend his motion. Joe agreed to amend the motion.

Group then discussed that the two awards could be presented at different conferences so as not to diminish the ‘spotlight’ from one or the other recipient. All agreed this was preferable. Bob and Alan will work to determine which conference work best for the recipients’ schedules.

Group discussed the suggestion to present an award to Senator Debbie Stabenow this year for her service since she is not running for US Senate again. Alan stated that he would like this committee to recommend a “Lifetime Achievement” or additional “Go To Bat” type of award for her. Cathy Kellerman stated that she felt a Lifetime Achievement Award would be appropriate. Craig felt that we should try to give her the award at one of our conferences. Connie Conklin stated that this should be treated differently than the Go To Bat to give it higher priority. Dana agreed that a Lifetime Achievement award was more appropriate.

Group voted to recognize Senator Stabenow with a Lifetime Achievement award.

Partners In Excellence Award – **ACTION ITEM** (enc)

Amanda Shaffer – Western Region

Tammy Warner gave brief details about Amanda Shaffer’s advocacy within the community. Group had no questions.

Group voted to present the Partners in Excellence award to Amanda Shaffer at the 2023 Winter Conference.

Other

Any other items to discuss

None identified.

Parking Lot Items

Any topics that the group would like to add to future agendas can be placed here.

Add Winter Conference location continued discussion to next month’s agenda.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Member Services Committee is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 9:30am. This meeting will be held in-person and via Zoom.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:36am.