

Outdoor Ministries Association
Board of Directors
November 13, 2007
Mensch Mill Conference and Retreat Center

Members present: Bruce Druckenmiller, Jeremy Force, Leslie Desrosiers, Kathy Duckworth, Charles Stark, Glenn Svetnicka, Kaila Russell, Ira Williams and William Bourdon

- Board of Directors meeting minutes from March 1, 2007 and March 6, 2007 were approved.
- Kathy presented a financial report, noting that we have \$5,200.00 in the bank after paying our outstanding bills related to Consult. Consult expenses came in at \$21,132.00, considerably less than income. Kathy was asked to prepare balance sheets for both board funds and Consult funds.
- Membership and dues paid to date were reviewed. It was agreed that the website listing of members will be for paid members in the first column and program site information in the second column. Regional representatives were asked to follow up on contacts in their regions to determine whether the contacts were truly interested in being members. Conferences without sites but who have outdoor ministry professionals or programming are encouraged to become members, and sites doing programming are also encouraged to do so.
- Regional representatives shared what is happening around their regions; most sites with long-term leadership are doing well, while sites in transition are struggling.
- UCCIB: Ira will follow up on the need for directors insurance for the OMA Board.
- Blog: Charles has our blog up and running and is serving as the blog host. Our cost for the service is \$30.00 per year. Payment of the \$30.00 fee was authorized. The blog can be accessed from the OMA website or at <http://blog.oma-ucc.org>.
- Ira reported that he was unable to staff a booth at Synod this year and that the display is back at Pilgrim Center.
- Jeremy reported that he had four registrations for the writer's workshop at Pilgrim Firs. The board authorized up to \$300.00 in reimbursements for expenses that he might incur conducting the event. All of the participants are staff at OMA member sites.
- Jeremy reported that he had been taking part in an ACA workshop on diversity and that as we look at diversity we need to look not only at race diversity, but also at factors such as finances, mobility, and disabilities that would limit participation.

- Bruce has been asked to meet with José Abraham de Jesus of the national office to talk about the Deering money. It is our recommendation that one-half of the funds should be available for OMA requests and the other half available for grants of \$1,000 or less to be used for outdoor ministry-related programming, and that OMA be asked to help prioritize annual grants.
- Ira reported that Davita McAllister is no longer at national and that her replacement is only working on NYE. Therefore, our new contact will be José Abraham de Jesus, Minister and Team Leader, Worship and Education Local Church Ministries.
- Bill reported that he received responses to his survey from only four conference ministers. He was encouraged to try to keep the dialog going.
- The resignations of Judy Luther and Cynthia Spellings were accepted with regret by the board. The secretary was asked to send letters thanking them for their service to outdoor ministries.
- Shirley Assmussen and Rob Schmidt were nominated by the board as replacement candidates. Kaila will follow up in her capacity as nomination committee member and, if necessary, she will consult with the chair for other candidates.

Consult Planning Team Report

The planning committee presented their report and the following was agreed upon by board consensus:

1. The event will be held at N-Sid-Sen, with the theme being Sacred Places/Sacred Stories.
2. Playing out the theme will be: how could/would/should the Native American culture intersect and influence our Judeo-Christian understanding of creation and how can we demonstrate it an model it in our outdoor ministry programs and settings.
3. The committee will investigate Deering money, grants and assistance from UCCIB.
4. Vendor and trade show opportunities will be investigated.
5. Ira will contact Sue Dickerman about Lilly Foundation funding.
6. Planning committee members will be asked to cover the site fee but not the program fee.
7. Linda Crowe will be asked to assist with a t-shirt and logo design.
8. The event will be scheduled for the second week of November, 2009.
9. The planning committee will meet at N-Sid-Sen February 4-6, 2008.
10. Consults will be scheduled every odd-numbered year.

OMA-PG Planning Committee

The planning committee presented their report and the following was agreed upon by board consensus:

1. That OMA should offer a mid-week membership gathering the second week of November every even-numbered year.

2. These events should be called OMA-PG, or Outdoor Ministry Association Professionals Gathering.
3. The events should be held in a city where transportation and resources are readily available.
4. The events are to be designed around the concepts of social gathering, spiritual development and education.
5. If at all possible, the first OMA-PG will be held in Cleveland the second week of November 2008. Bill Bourdon will follow up with the arrangements.
6. National staff will be asked to lead us in worship and bible study based on the 2009 season's curriculum for Outdoor Ministry.
7. The educational theme for the event will be a panel of members leading a program on non-traditional camping programs for special populations.
8. The event should be spouse or partner-friendly.

Directors Compensation Survey

Jeff Puhlmann-Becker has asked permission to conduct a survey of the top position for each operation to develop a report outlining compensation. The board authorized Jeff to conduct such a survey and asked that he include educational credentials as well.