

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Monterey, CA
January 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. The following board members were present: President Marion Robertson, Bonnie Bagley, Darwin Afdahl, Roger Smith, Ken Monzingo, and Teri Atkinson. Secretary-Treasurer Tom Shulman was also present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Upon motion and second the minutes of the 2015 Riverside annual meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Tom Shulman presented the FY 2015 Treasurer's report, copies of which had previously been emailed to the Board. WC had a net loss of -\$7,333 in FY 2015. As of November 30, 2015, WC had a net worth of \$48,075.

The Treasurer reported that WC lost nearly \$24,000 over the last two years, that WC net worth is at its lowest year-end level since November 2006, and that next year's budget projects a deficit approaching -\$10,000. The Treasurer reported that it now costs \$80,000 more per year to publish the Forum than it did ten years ago, and it is anticipated that the cost will continue to increase at a rate of about \$4,000 per year.

After extensive discussion (see below), the Treasurer's report was ACCEPTED.

The Board discussed options to increase revenues and to decrease expenses. The Board discussed that it did not want to increase STAC sanction fees due to concern that too many clubs would opt out as a result. The Board concluded that its best course was to increase regional sanction fees, which had been at the same \$2.25 level for the last ten years. After much discussion about the amount of the increase and the date the increase should become effective, it was moved, seconded, and CARRIED to increase regional sanction fees by \$1.00, to \$3.25/tbl., effective March 1, 2016.

Money to Districts

The Board discussed whether any money should be returned to the districts in light of the rather big loss experienced in 2015 and in light of the draft budget for 2016 that did not show a profit. The Board decided to forego a rebate this year.

STAC

Bonnie Bagley reported on the STAC table counts and the top STAC award winners, and Teri Atkinson reported on her collection process and success. Teri also reported that Bill Michael had created a program to help with STAC accounting and collections, and that it was a big help. There was discussion about the STACs but no action was taken.

Forum

Ken Monzingo reported on *Forum* operations and told the Board that the Forum was doing fine, and they would continue what they've been doing for the last 25-35 years. Ken's two employees (Sergio and Leticia) are still there and still doing a wonderful job.

Certain units had asked about putting an insert into the paper, and Ken had quoted the price of \$20/1000, but in addition to the WC cost, the unit or other advertiser would have to pay the cost of producing the thousands of inserts.

Monzingo stated that in light of the financial situation, he would not seek a raise until the budget was in balance, and that he would review the first class mailing list and attempt to reduce it by half.

Old Business

Marion reported that nothing had been done to try to learn about and record the history of the Western Conference, but that she will take on that project this year.

Election of Officers

Marion Robertson was nominated to be president. No further nominations. Marion Robertson was elected.

Tom Shulman was nominated to be Secretary/Treasurer. No further nominations. Tom Shulman was elected.

Next Meeting

The Board decided that the next meeting would be in D17 at the Albuquerque Regional on Saturday morning, January 21, 2017 at a time TBD.

Executive Session

In Executive Session, with Monzingo absent, the Board decided there would be no change in the amount to be paid to Monzingo for Forum publication.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.