

**MINUTES OF THE PRE-CONVENTION BOARD MEETING OF THE MCRA
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OCTOBER 1, 2004**

The pre-Convention board meeting of the MCRA Board of Directors was called to order at approximately 3:29 p.m. on October 1, 2004. Present were Tammy Ballew, President; Rhonda Laurentius, President-Elect; Patricia Manners, Vice President; Deborah McLaughlin, Immediate Past President; Angie Culler, Treasurer; Debbie Kriegshauser, Region I Vice President; Betsy Gromowsky, Region II Vice President; Tiffany Hughes, Region III Vice President; Judy Richardson, Region IV Vice President; Sandy Stewart, Region V Vice President; and Duane Smith, NCRA President; Jennifer Dunn, Linda Dattilo and Diana Taylor.

RATIFICATION OF E-MAIL VOTES:

MOTION/SANDY STEWART: I make a motion that we ratify the following E-mail votes:

Approval of the following applications for student membership: Kelly A. Wikel, Gari Riley, Traci Ridings, Pamela M. LaGree, Jennie Burkhardt, Phyllis Rea, Jennifer McClure, Christine M. Auer, Denise Halasey, Joanne Ferrenbach, Brad Indelicato, Lydia Forshee and Leslie Varney. Approval of \$2,000 contribution to MCRA-PAC Fund. Approval of refund of registration fees to Olivia Stiffler. Approval to put Progress Editor old computer and equipment on e-Bay. Approval for purchase of software to put Progress on-line. **MOTION SECONDED/PATRICIA MANNERS.** There being no further discussion, President Ballew called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION/RHONDA LAURENTIUS: I make a motion that we approve the minutes of the June 12, 2004, Board Meeting as printed in Progress. **MOTION SECONDED/JUDY RICHARDSON.** There being no discussion, President Ballew called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carries.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Discussion was had regarding delinquent dues.

Discussion was had concerning membership recruitment. President Ballew announced that the MCRA Events Coordinator, MaryAnne Brooks, will be introduced at the Luncheon/Business Meeting on Saturday, October 2, 2004. Discussion was had concerning Convention 2005 being held in Branson, Missouri.

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S REPORT:

Rhonda Laurentius gave a report on the Student Mentoring Program. Rhonda reported that there are approximately 31 students who have applied for sponsorship at convention. MCRA was able to have each student sponsored for this year's convention. Discussion was had concerning the difficulty that was experienced this year in obtaining student sponsors.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Patricia Manners gave a report on the number of items currently for sale at the MCRA Store. Discussion was had concerning prices for items for sale at the MCRA Store at convention. Convention prices for MCRA store items were set by the Board.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No report given due to Sue Moran being absent from the meeting due to family obligations. Betsy Gromowsky indicated a need to approve a new member, Doni Schaefer, for membership.

MOTION/TIFFANY HUGHES: I make a motion to approve Doni Schaefer's request for MCRA membership. **MOTION SECONDED/JUDY RICHARDSON.** There being no further discussion, President Ballew called for a vote. Unanimous aye. Motion carries.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Angie Culler distributed information concerning the Treasurer's report. Checking account Balance: \$27,166.15; certificate of deposit balance \$46,625.44. Delinquent membership dues - \$3,115. Angie indicated that in order for MCRA to file a complete an accurate IRS Form 990, all region account activities need to be submitted to MCRA's accountant. Discussion was had. Angie presented Linda Dattilo with the \$2,000.00 PAC contribution. Discussion was had regarding the financial impact the reduction in regions may or may not have on MCRA.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Deborah McLaughlin announced the 2004-2005 Slate of Officers: President, Rhonda Laurentius; President-Elect Patricia Manners; Vice-President, Sandy Stewart; Secretary, Betsy Gromowsky, Treasurer, Angie Culler. President Ballew also announced Region Vice Presidents for the 2004-2005 year.

REGION I REPORT:

Region I Vice President, Debbie Kriegshauser, announced there were 150 people pre-registered for convention. 66 Region I members contributed to the Assessment Fee for convention. There will be eight vendors at convention. No figures are available at this time for 2004 convention.

REGION II REPORT:

Region II Vice President, Betsy Gromowsky, had nothing to report.

REGION III REPORT:

Region III Vice President, Tiffany Hughes, reported on the Region III meeting, which was held on August 31, 2004, at Summit Lake Winery.

REGION IV REPORT:

Region IV Vice President, Judy Richardson, had nothing to report.

REGION V REPORT:

Region V Vice President, Sandy Stewart, had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

President Ballew handed out a copy of the survey that is being presented to each of the registrants at convention concerning the possibility of dividing MCRA's regions into two regions instead of five regions. Rhonda Laurentius presented discussion concerning her contact with Mary Conway, MCRA Web Master, concerning putting Progress online for MCRA members. A discussion was had concerning reporters working without their CCR. Discussion was had concerning informing lawyers and judicial personnel of the mandated CCR in Missouri in order to try to alleviate those reporters who are not CCRs who are continuing to work as reporters in Missouri. Discussion was had concerning the need to hold fundraisers throughout the state in order to obtain funds for MCRA.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

MOTION/SANDY STEWART: I make a motion to approve the day-to-day expenses until the next board meeting on October 3, 2004. **MOTION SECONDED/TIFFANY HUGHES.** There being no further discussion, President Ballew called for a vote on the motion. Unanimous aye. Motion carries.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah K. McLaughlin
Acting Secretary for Pre-Convention Board Meeting