

In attendance: MEEOA membership

Welcome and Call to Order by Mary Kate Barbosa (President)

Officer Reports:

President's Report- Mary Kate Barbosa

- Kate Walsh is not here to ask, but please pay memberships if still outstanding.
- Programs should utilize Tony Staffiere and his Public Relations skills: send him information about events, photos, promotional things, etc.
- Congratulations to Arnold Mitchum Leadership Institute graduates from: Jannie Durr, Sam Prosser, Andrew Henry, and Eric Pratt!
- The Maine State basket at the silent auction is awesome, thanks to everyone for contributing.

Secretary's Report- Mary Sinclair

- Mary presented the minutes from the January meeting via email and handed out copies at the meeting. No one had any questions.
- Steve Visco motioned to accept the minutes, Alyssa West seconded. All in favor.

Vote for 2019-2020 Board- Mary Kate Barbosa

- Current Candidates:
 - President- Steve Visco
 - President Elect- Mary Sinclair
 - Secretary- Lisa Black
 - Treasurer- Nikolas Lallemand
- Calvin Hall motioned to accept the slate as proposed. Sarah Brooks seconded. Darylen offered thanks to all the people filling roles. All voted in favor.
- Michelle will be stepping down as Alumni Chair at the end of this year and thanks were offered to her.

Committee Reports:

Hall of Flags and Public Relations- Tony Staffiere

- We had a very successful Hall of Flags event last month. Thirteen programs attended. Senator Millett spoke, again, with updates on the legislature and inspiring words. Two

students shared their stories. A few programs came to UMA after. Tony would love volunteers to help with this event. The name of “Hall of Flags” will be changed to “Maine TRIO and GEAR UP Advocacy Day” in the Strategic Plan 2019-2024. Officially, this change to the bylaws will be coming next year.

- TRIO had a great start to 2019: Karen Keim, Lynn Ploof-Davis, and Katharine Lualdi were guests on an episode of Maine Calling on MPBN; Sen. Shaheen (NH) spoke of TRIO in her address to Dept. of Ed Secretary immediately following Policy Seminar; Darylen Cote was inducted to the Maine Women’s Hall of Fame; and Sen. Collins and Rep. Golden both posted pictures and talked about their Policy Seminar meetings via social media and press releases.
- Anyone with graduation celebrations, or any other information to share, can pass it along to Tony. He will gladly promote events.

Alumni- Michelle Richards

- Michelle has felt privileged to serve on MEEOA board and has feelers out regarding her replacement. She will help in the transition of this position.
- This spring, Michelle helped recruit and interview the alumni attending Policy Seminar.
- Next year, Michelle hopes nominations for Achievers and Policy Seminar will be rolling, so people may nominate in a larger window of time.
- The National COE Achiever nominations are currently open.
- Steve is interested in Alumni becoming a bigger committee with someone from each TRIO program and GEAR Up represented.

Development- Karen Keim

- Karen met with Andrew Long who is now working on Development with her. They would like to expand beyond the small geographic location they currently reach to.
- In the future, they are looking to do some targeted asks, including in-kind donations or gifts. Karen will ask places of employment to give in honor of someone’s service. They are also exploring funding for a new event this coming year.
- Development is always looking for new committee members.

Government Relations/ Policy-Eric Pratt

- On March 11, the President’s proposed budget was released, including severe cuts to TRIO (\$8.5 billion, equaling a 12% reduction). The proposal would consolidate TRIO and GEAR Up and turn them into state block grants. Congress knows this is aspirational of the President.
- Policy Seminar was successful. We met with all four Maine offices, including personally speaking with Sen. Collins, Sen. King, and Rep. Golden.

- Collins: spent 20 minutes with Collins herself and an hour and 40 minutes with her education staff. She is head of the TRIO Caucus. It is important to thank her for her support.
- King: met for a while individually and later privately with his Ed staff.
- Golden: this was an introduction to TRIO for him. MEEOA was able to spend 20 minutes with him and longer with his staff after. He is coming to UMF's SSS graduation in May. Rep Golden quickly signed the letter of support for TRIO and joined the TRIO caucus after his meeting.
- Pingree's staff was very supportive.
- "The ask" of Policy Seminar 2019: \$60 million increase to funding (including 140 new SSS programs in this grant cycle), to sign on to the letter supporting TRIO, and to consider not supporting a bill with language around homelessness and Foster youth in regards to eligibility.
- The alumni attending were great, the officials took their messages to heart.
- Thanks to Karen for her organization of the meetings.
- Other regions are not as supported by their representatives as Maine, it is important to continue communication with our elected officials.
- Sam Prosser thinks we should consider cultivating a relationship with Maine Spark. It is a logical connection for our organizations. Karen said we do have some crossover at this point, but we could have more.

Strategic Plan- Eric Pratt

- Eric has been working with Sam Prosser, Jesse Blackburn, and Alan Parks on a revamp and update to the Strategic Plan for 2019-2024.
- The goals are supposed to be lofty. They are hoping to have a final draft by June for approval at the June MEEOA Board meeting.

Fair Share- Andrew Henry

- Everyone in NEOA seems behind. Andrew is going to reach out to institutions early next year. MEEOA leads NEOA in personal contributions.
- Andrew has been working on a way for better communication of which people have been considered "10 for 10." He then described what Fair Share is and why it is so important and beneficial. Donations to COE provide unrestricted funds and pay salaries of lobbyists.
- Any amount helps. It sends a message that the work of COE is important.

Conference 2020- Mary Sinclair, Eric Pratt, Elyse Pratt- Ronco

- No concrete plans yet. Shelbie passed along a wealth of information. One thing that stood out was the preference to have the conference at the end of the week, so the chairs will try to plan for that. The location and other details are still in the works.

- Helpers are appreciated!

Other Business:

- Casey has been migrating storage to Box Drive- thanks to Casey!!
- Sara Flowers did the Fact Book this year with some major changes to the format and it looks great. Mary will send it to the membership.
- Darylen encouraged programs to “induct” their graduates to the Alumni Association. Lynn has a postcard with useful websites for TRIO alumni.
- Ginny Fowles-Ward asked if a Treasurer’s Report was available. Mary Kate said it was not yet available but could be emailed out when it is. Steve pointed out that the Association is in good shape financially. The 2019 conference was very efficient. Mary Kate pointed out that the board has been able to make an additional \$5,000 donation to COE each of the last few years.
- Ginny thanked Mary Kate for her service this year. Mary Kate said it has been a great professional development opportunity. She was able to meet people and encouraged others to serve on the MEEOA Board in some way.

Jannie Durr motioned to adjourn. Steve Visco seconded.