

**Minutes of MEEOA Business Meeting
Atlantic Oceanside Hotel, Bar Harbor**

January 16, 2020 • 1pm – 3pm

In attendance: MEEOA Membership

Call to Order Welcome. Call to order at 1:04 pm.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report: Steve Visco welcomed the MEEOA membership to the Business Meeting, acknowledging it as the highlight of our annual conference. Steve provided an overview of the MEEOA meeting process to help orient newcomers and presented the meeting's agenda.

Andrew Henry motioned to approve the agenda. Andrew Long seconded. All approved.

Steve talked about his training at COE's Leadership Institute. The training is top notch, academically rigorous, and intentionally held at highly selective institutions in an effort to reduce barriers (last year it was at Yale). Participants have direct access to COE leadership and receive excellent advice about ways to enhance the work we do within our home associations.

Steve stated that his mission this year has been to call all MEEOA directors. These conversations have confirmed the strength of this association; the collaborative nature of Maine's TRIO programs is exemplary and not always the case in other states.

Steve provided an overview of COE's upcoming Policy Seminar, a concerted effort to provide all US senators with the same message about TRIO on the same day. Maine always gets a warm welcome, as Senators Collins and King are true believers in TRIO. Maine's grassroots efforts are the reason we have had such success. We are looking for SSS alums to send to Policy this year because of this year's SSS competition.

Past President's Report: Mary Kate Barbosa reported that the Past President's role is to encourage people to participate on the MEEOA Board or on a committee. In particular, we are looking to grow the Alumni Committee and Tony Staffiere, a committee of one who coordinates the annual Hall of Flags TRIO and GEAR UP Advocacy Day and MEEOA public relations, would also love help. Also on the horizon are NEOA's national TRIO Day event (in Framingham, MA this year and in Maine next year). Doris Juarez from USM and Carol McGlenn at UMPI have

offered to help with Maine 2021 TRIO Day. Steve noted that it will be at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland. For Board positions, Sam Prosser has volunteered to run for President Elect.

President-Elect's Report: Mary Sinclair has been preparing for her new role, consulting with both Steve and Mary Kate.

Treasurer's Report: Nik Lallemand provided an overview of the budget spreadsheet to orient newcomers. He has requested that members put MEEOA invoice numbers on check requests and add school name, program, and individual names in "notes" because these are not always clear when payment comes through. We are at \$34,705—we are healthy!

Kate Walsh motioned to approve. Mary Kate seconded. All approved

Secretary's Report: Lisa Black presented the minutes from the last MEEOA business meeting at the 2019 NEOA conference in Rhode Island (taken by 2019 MEEOA secretary Mary Sinclair).

Eric Pratt motioned to approve. Andrew Henry seconded. All approved.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alumni Committee: Andrew Henry led a round of applause for last night's Alumni Award recipients. His goal as Alumni Committee Chair is to expand MEEOA's alumni database in order to connect recent grads with Maine TRIO alumni. He is also working on inviting alums who don't currently work in TRIO to attend Policy Seminar. He reiterated that he would like at least one person from SSS since it is a grant year.

Conference: Steve initiated a round of applause for the conference committee (Mary Sinclair, Eric Pratt, and Elyse Pratt-Ronco). The proposed budget was \$13,000 with expenses exceeding that, but they also brought in much higher attendance than usual (130 vs 90). Total income from the conference is approximately \$5,520.

Conference highlights included the new location and the Disparities in Education discussion, which brought in Maine partners and allies who are not TRIO or GEAR UP professionals.

Recommendations for next year's MEEOA conference include an increase in conference registration fees and a full silent/chance auction with no live auction. The committee proposed doing something fun instead, like a stand-up comedy night.

The committee ended by thanking the membership for all their help, passion, and energy, which makes MEEOA so fun.

Development: Karen Keim and Andrew Long reported that the Board decided to increase the level of giving from \$1K to \$2K and \$5K increments, with an eye to increasing professional development opportunities. Please send the Development team any ideas and connections you may have (who do you know that loves what you do?) They ended by thanking Husson, UMA, Machias Savings Bank, and Andrew Long's parents, who all sponsored this year's conference.

Fair Share: Dave Megquire introduced Fair Share. He reported that COE is limited in what they can spend on lobbying, so FairShare evolved in the 1980s as a way to direct more unrestricted funds to COE. FairShare provides the assistance we get to apply for grants and other workshops. Most states do not have the 100% participation in institutional memberships the way Maine does. We are currently at 58% of goal with more programs budgeted to renew in the spring. We reached 150% of our goal last year! COE's website is very easy to navigate and paper forms are also available. Steve added that Fair Share also funds lawyer fees and salary for advocacy employees for defunded programs, etc.

Government Relations: Eric Pratt is gearing up for the 2020 Policy Seminar, noting the outreach to Jared Golden that took place last year last year. The annual Hall of Flags event is another great place to connect with elected officials about supporting TRIO.

Membership: Kate Walsh requested that you let her know if you are not sure if your membership has been payed. Sometimes the reporting is not clear and this will help her do the research necessary to reconcile accounts.

TRIO and GEAR UP Advocacy Day Chair: Tony Staffiere thanked Casey Henderson for his continued hard work on the website and Sara Flowers for her work on the Fact Book, which should be ready for TRIO Day and Advocacy Day. Check out MEEOA's social media for posts about the conference. Please send Tony any events your program may be planning that could also be featured. Hall of Flags is being rebranded and is now being called "TRIO and GEAR UP Advocacy Day." This year it will take place on March 10th, which will be a session day. UMA is hosting an event afterward for pre-college and 2yr SSS programs.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT OUTS

Old Business: nothing to report

New Business: Mary Kate reminded folks to think about helping with the conference next year. New Board members will be elected at NEOA in April.

Dori Feldman motioned to adjourn. Ginny Ward seconded. All approved.

Adjourn at 12:00