

IIMC BOARD TELECONFERENCE

MARCH 9, 2009

The teleconference was hosted by President Dyanne Reese at 11:00 a.m. EST. The roll was called and the following were present: Board Members: Mary Lynne Stratta, Chuck Tokar, Sharon Cassler, Bernice Dixon, Carol Jacobs, Stephanie Kelly, Barbara Blackard, Linda Cohen, Kathy* (left the telecom prior to the end of the meeting), Dornan, Brenda Kay, Stephanie Kalasz, Rick Goeckner* (left the telecom prior to the end of the meeting), Colleen Nichol, Monica Simmons, Jerry Lovett-Sparing, Pam Kolacy, Marc Lemoine, Bernie White, Jane William-Warren, Nick Randle* (joined the teleconference late due to U.S. time change and was disconnected prior to the end of the meeting), Tom Van Der Hoven* (joined the teleconference late due to U.S. time change) and Executive Director Chris Shalby.

Absent from the teleconference were: Eddie R, Myers, Carolyn Brownfield, Glenda Morgan, and Shari Moore,

Properly Moved and Seconded, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

The next item on the agenda was an update by Chuck Tokar regarding the status of the IIMC Annual Conference in Chicago, May 2009. He reported that the Host Committee met this week to review the progress made to date. He plans to visit the Palmer House Hotel and the Navy Pier next week. The location for the fireworks display will be moved if refurbishing is not completed by the time of the conference. Chuck expressed concern about the impact of the reduced number of conferees registered since the rates were initially based on 900 attendees. He has advised the hotel to reduce the number to 800 attendees based on registration to date. He continues to send out conference brochures to certain states promoting the conference, as well as to Regions 10 and 11. Chuck reiterated that the conference in Chicago will not be too expensive for conferees. Because it is within driving distance to so many states, members can drive to Chicago – even vanpool and can share a room. There will be Vegas style entertainment after the banquet, thanks to Monica Simmons and President Elect Stratta.

Chris Shalby commented that to date, the registered number of conferees is low and expressed concern with meeting the 85% required to secure the block of hotel rooms. He will meet with the hotel again next week and will reduce the anticipated number of attendees if the registration has not increased. The hotel has promised to still honor IIMC's negotiated room rate. However, he cautioned that there would need to be a major renegotiation with the hotel should the number fall below 700 registered conferees. Recognizing the economic conditions, he sent out E-briefings promoting the conference; provided lots of information to members about the conference; initiated discount rates to surrounding states and Region XI and consideration of increasing the educational point system for attending the conference. In addition the Early Bird Registration Rate will be extended. Sponsorship is on track even though the number of exhibitors is low.

President Reese advised that the Program Review and Certification Committee recommends increasing the number of educational points earned for attending the conference from four to eight to encourage attendance. The committee also recommended awarding two educational points for the two Athenian Dialogue sessions. A lengthy discussion ensued during which several members expressed concern that members who are unable to attend the conference may think that preference is being given to those who could afford to attend. They cautioned that repercussions could result in giving points just for attending the conference. Others suggested that the points go toward certification in order to entice members to attend. It was noted that credit is already being given for remote training through reviewing CD's. Attendees would be required to sign in at each session in order to receive credit. It was also recommended that educational points awarded be commensurate with the points given in members' local communities. Tokar noted that the Executive Committee supports the recommendation but President Reese clarified that she supported it being referred to the Program Review and Certification Committee for consideration. It was pointed out that since the registration fee had been reduced as much as possible, this was the only other option that could be used as an incentive to entice members to attend. Following discussion, **a Motion was made by Barbara Blackard to Adopt the recommendation of the Review and Certification Committee to allow two educational points for the Athenian Dialogue and a one-time option to increase the educational points from four to eight. Seconded by Chuck Tokar, the Motion was Approved 10 ayes – 8 nays with one abstention.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2 p. m. EST.

Respectfully Submitted,
Olivia Woods, Parliamentarian/Acting Secretary