

# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

# **Sunday, January 26, 2020**

**PRESENT IN PERSON**: Stirling Phillips, Merry Lymn, David Lewis, Ramona Buck, and Laverne Day.

**PRESENT BY PHONE:** Barry Weissman, Janne Weissman and Monette Goodridge.

**NOT PRESENT**: Charles Franklin, Jamie Brooks Robertson, Liz Salter, Ceecee Paizs. and Thom McCloud (Thom McCloud and Ramona Buck alternate participation).

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Maryland Counsel for Dispute Resolution was called to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. and concluded at 5:45 pm.

**MINUTES OF THE THE PREVIOUS MEETING** were accepted as written.

**The roster of the Board is almost complete.**  A fifth corrected copy was e-mailed to the Board on January 28, 2020.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Barry Weissman has had to order more brochures. Several people are committed to distributing them.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** David Lewis has been working to form a network of similar organizations in other states. The purpose would be to offer reciprocity in programming.

**MENTORING:**

**The Board agreed that mentoring and certification should be the central missions of this organization: The two programs that would make it unique since other organizations also offer speakers and networking.**

The Board agreed that mentoring needs to transition from a theoretical construct into a reality.

There needs to be a committee with members who meet on a regular basis. The committee needs to launch the program as soon as possible.

Mentoring has to include observations as well as advice. It should be the one thing that this organization can offer that other organizations do not offer.

At the last meeting, Barry Weissman reported that, on October 21, he met with June W. Dillard of the Standing Committee on Pro Bono Legal Service that reports to the Maryland Court of Appeals. That Committee has been looking for Pro Bono opportunities. Barry was hopeful that, at its December meeting, the Committee was scheduled to discuss MCDR's mentoring program as a possible way for mediator/attorneys to earn credit for mentoring mediators. Jamie Brooks Robertson, Mentoring Chair, would contact June Dillard to discuss the possibilities.

Apparently, Jamie has not responded to phone calls from other Board members. She may be on vacation.

**CERTIFICATION:** Ramona Buck reported that she received very positive responses regarding the feedback sessions in October. Her committee is looking into whether the certification program can obtain grants from JAMS or MACRO.

The next certification session will be in Largo at Thom McCloud's.

There was a discussion on whether we need to train assessors so that they will be ready to assess certification candidates. It was decided that since we do not have many candidates for certification, it is not prudent, at this time. to train assessors who may not be needed for awhile.

Renewal of IMI needs to be addressed.

**REPRESENTATION: I**t was agreed that if someone is representing MCDR, the Board should appoint that person to do so. Otherwise, the person is acting in his/her personal capacity.

Merry Lymn agreed to speak to Heather Fogg about MCDR representation and why Martin Kranitz was the presumed president/representative on the Ethics committee.

**PROGRAMS:**

The program for the March quarterly meeting will be a Jeopardy Ethics game for one-half hour followed by a Marching Forward Party. LaVerne will see if the Greenbelt Community Center is available for the March quarterly meeting.

The second quarterly meeting will focus on diversity.

In order to increase visibility, the Board has decided that the June meeting should be in Easton on Wednesday, June 10. The September meeting should be in Annapolis and the December meeting in Montgomery County.

The March and June meetings should be put up on the website now and the September meeting should be added when the venue is fixed.

LaVerne will create a template for the March meeting and Barry will send it out to the membership as soon as possible.

The Board would like to try Skype for the next meeting so that people from all over the state can participate. Also, the Board would like the meetings videotaped and put on YouTube for those who were not able to attend at the time.

David would like to see a new type of awards ceremony. He expressed his belief that it would add benefit to the organization without much cost. Awards could be made for a significant contribution to the Maryland mediation community, or region or county, for a significant contribution to volunteerism, or for a significant achievement. The Board agreed that this topic should be discussed fully before any decision is made.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Janne Weissman, Membership Chair, reported that, since our last meeting, as a result of the e-mails that she sent to lapsed members, there have been 15 to 20 renewals. There are also 2 or 3 new members. She will be resending the letters to the HR organizations.

Barry Weissman will work on social media outreach.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING:** David Lewis, President, will be contacting the Board with proposed dates. David, Stirling, and Merry will get together to set regular dates for Board meetings so that people can put it on their calendars.

Awards will be the topic of the next Board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Merry Lymn, Secretary