**Minutes of the August 29, 2017 MCDR Board Meeting**

The MCDR Board met on August 29, 2017 at the home of Co-President Tim Stranges.

Present were: Tim Stranges, Maile Beers-Arthur, Thom McCloud, Harold Cohen, Barry Weissman, Dina Gold, Monette Goodridge, Stirling Phillips, and. Shelley Korch.

**The Board adopted the minutes from the prior meeting.**

**The Board extended many thanks to Maile Beers-Arthur, Barry Weisman, Harold Cohen and Ellen Kandell for their work on the nominating committee.**

**The nominating committee has proposed the follow slate of officers for the 2017-18 year:**

Co-Presidents: Stirling Phillips

Charles Franklin

Treasurer: Barry Weissman

Secretary: Dina Gold

At Large Executive Board Members:

Robert Oberlander

James Boyle

Liz Salter

Also, the nominating committee has confirmed the following individuals will serve in the positions noted:

Program Committee Chair: Monette Goodridge

Membership Chair: Liz Salter

Marketing and Outreach Chair: Robert Oberlander

Additional notes regarding next year’s slate:

* The Board agreed that there was no need to nominate a VP when two co-presidents preside during a year.
* There will be follow up with Kate Cullen as to whether she will continue as chair or co-chair for the Certification Committee –chair is normally selected by the committee internally.
* Maile will prepare the ballot for distribution at the next quarterly meeting.
* With the retirement of Rob Ketcham, MCDR does not have representation from the Eastern Shore on the Board Maile will reach out to Rob to ask him for a recommendation. Nor does MCDR have a liaison to the MSBA ADR Section.

The Board discussed the following topics

**Next Certification Exercise:**

* + The next certification date is November 12
  + Barry will re-send the announcement for the planned date after Labor Day
  + There is a need for individuals to role play
  + Location is not yet confirmed, but Martin has indicated that he could make is place available if necessary.

**Summary of discussion relating to a submission to MACRO to fund training for candidates who are planning to seek certification:**

* There was discussion about hiring a contractor to put together a proposal
* Tim said he had drafted one last year, but it was not submitted because there was uncertainty regarding how much to ask for. The Certification committee needs to decide their priorities and what they want in terms of funding. An effort will be made to discuss this with the current chair.
* MACRO has indicated they would support scholarships for those interested in applying for certification
* We recently conducted assessor training

**Report by Monette on Programs:**

* + The next meeting is September 19. We will vote on new officers and introduce them, as well as have a program.
  + By issuing a general call for food contributions, we have had too much at the meetings, so Monette asked to restrict this to the Board. (Agreed) Our contract with HCC requires use of Dasani water, we can’t bring other brands
  + The program after that will be 12/6 in Annapolis.
  + Next year Monette would like to schedule and announce all four dates at the beginning of the new year, so that we can get them on people’s calendars and hold the dates.
  + We hope the dates will be:  
    The 3rd week in January

The 1st week in April

The 3rd week of September

The 1st week of Dec.

* Planned programs include an ethics workshop, presentation by Gretchen Kaintz.
* There was extensive discussion of using the Dec. meeting to engage a conversation about racism, adversarial environments and/or talking to people across the divide. There was interest in trying to find a national or regionally significant and dynamic speaker to address this topic. Board Members were asked to provide Monette with names of proposed speakers, and ideas for clarifying the topic or theme by 9/8

**Restructuring the tradition of offering free attendance at quarterly meetings**

* There was a follow up to an earlier discussion about charging for attendance of non-members at our quarterly meetings to improve membership and organizational liquidity.
* It was noted that participants get CLE’s for our meetings and they are valuable, others charge for this.
* There was a proposal that is someone came to the meeting they would be encouraged to join for $75/year. Membership would include CLE's for the four meetings and a mug.
* If they did not want to join, they would be expected to pay $25 for the meeting, with the opportunity to join after the presentation if they thought it was worthwhile
* There were additional comments about encouraging students to attend and join and how this would work.
* Tim said he had written up an outline of the structure and would share it with the Board.
* Tim’s proposed structure is attached to these minutes.
* The Board decided to hold off on a vote to have the benefit of Tim’s material. Noting the new Board takes office in October it was decided to hold the matter in abeyance so that the new Board could decide this issue

**Sharon Picket Award**

* After discussing an earlier idea to hold the Sharon Picket Award in lieu of the regular December membership meeting it was decided to hold off and hold the event in April.
* The Board noted that we have not established a committee, nor has there been sufficient planning.

**Mentorship**

* Maile had taken the lead to try to get courts to allow observations or presence of new mediators in court mediations. She reached out to Court Roster administrators, but no one has responded.
* New standards reference the obligation of experienced mediators to mentor new mediators
* There is an upcoming MACRO meeting of people who train new mediators and the hope is that the courts will start to allow observers in mediations.
* At this point, the efforts have not been successful.

**Membership**

* The Board agreed not to purchase car magnets to advertise MCDR, they are expensive and there is no confidence that they would benefit the organization.
* When the MCDR brochures are updated, Barry noted that they will include mcdr.org email addresses
* There is interest in preparing a brochure for the Certification Committee. Barry is awaiting their input.

**The Opportunity to Co-Sponsor Montgomery College/MCDR Mediation again**

Tim reported that the Colloquium will be held on October 27 at Rockville. It will be an all-day program on resolving conflicts with individual who have mental health and substance abuse disorders. Dan Berstein of MH Mediate will speak in the morning and Andre Johnson from Detroit, an adviser to the US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, will speak in the afternoon. There will be sponsorships available for organizations. Tim will let us know when the information is available.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Korch

Secretary