

MCOA Annual Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2019

Prepared by Mary Kay Browne, MCOA Director, Special Projects

In the morning, a panel presented on the At 11:25, Becky Moriarty opened the official membership meeting. She thanked the staff of MCOA for their hard work and achievements of FY19.

On behalf of the Board and Members, Becky Moriarty recognized Kathy Bowler, along with Lynn Wolf, Shari Cox, and David Stevens, for their excellent work in organizing MCOA's Annual Meeting as well as all meetings and training sessions during the year.

Jean Bushnell motioned for acceptance of the minutes and Pam Hunt seconded the motion. All those present voted yes on the motion.

Susan Pacheco reported on the Cambridge COA outreach about Elder Abuse Awareness Month and explained the history of and need for robust outreach efforts so everyone in the community knows the signs and symptoms of elder abuse.

Emily Shea presented the slate of nominees for MCOA Board Officers. Then they asked for any nominations from the floor. Having none, Emily Shea made the motion to move for a vote for the slate as proposed; Melissa Carlson seconded the motion. All those present voted yes to the new slate of officers. Then, a motion was made for the Secretary to have a vote. Emily made the motion to move for a vote; Kelly Burke seconded the motion. All those present voted yes on the motion for the Secretary to cast one vote. The Secretary congratulated the elected Board of Directors.

Susan Pacheco invited additional nominations for individuals to serve as Regional Representatives. Then, Susan Pacheco read the full slate of nominees for the MCOA Advisory Council /Regional Representatives for all regions of the state. She asked again for any nominations from the floor. Having none, Susan Pacheco made the motion to move for a vote for the slate as proposed; Marge McDonald seconded the motion. All those present voted yes to the new slate of regional representatives.

Marge McDonald, the Assistant Secretary introduced the new governing bylaws. The bylaws must be reviewed every 5 years; the board worked on it during the year. The bylaws were presented to the members at a member meeting in February, posted on the

web site, and included in the weekly communications sent to members weekly during the last 2 months.

Highlights of Revisions

1. The creation, in Section 8.3, of a “board limited standing committee”
2. Formalizing the past president position (to ensure continuity)
3. Rest of structure remained the same
4. Technical and grammatical changes were also made.

Jackie Coucci made a motion for grammatical edits in the Section 2.2 (Add “and collaborating opportunities”) and in all subsections of Article 3 Membership, clean up language in all the sections to remove the privileges number 1 out of the privileges section and move to the qualifications section (regarding being up to date for member dues). (3.1, 3.2 and 3.4). It was seconded Ann Marie Gagnon.

Further items she raised for discussion:

- Jackie asked the members to discuss if there should be a term limit for the officers David explained past difficulties in recruiting individuals onto the board. Section 6.1. Currently, the term is 1 year but there is no term limit in terms of duration of years for concluding their time on the board. Jackie made a motion for a 5 year term limit and to permit, after a 1 year hiatus, permits them to rejoin the board.
 - Discussion of the issue ensued, pro and against the ambiguity of the language, does it serve the organization well? Jackie rescinded the motion after learning the opinion of the group to not change the language.
- Under Article 8, Structure of the Agency, subsection 8.5 Quorum, how is it defined? Jackie proposed it to be a majority of the officers currently serving. (E.g. if some vacancies exist the majority number would reduce from 9). Jackie made the motion, and Gene Mazzella seconded it. All present voted unanimously for the proposed definition.

Regarding Section 8.3, Grace O'Donnell asked if assistant directors may be eligible for certification. Kathy Bowler explained that the assistant directors could apply for certification under the “Director” class of personnel.

Gene Mazzella thanked the Board for its work and those present applauded

Marge McDonald asked for a motion to accept the bylaws with the friendly amendments proposed. Bethany Loveless made the motion and Beverly Bisch seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

David Stevens shared a discussion he'd had with President Moriarty about updating all MCOA policies and procedures during FY19. Thereafter, the Board retreat spent time reviewing all policies and bylaws. Also, the Board created a new job description for itself, now that MCOA staff is available to perform roles historically performed. He asked the members to read the job description (posted on website and shared via newsletter) and to endorse the job description. Motion made by Jackie, seconded by Jean Bushnell, to accept the new job description. All voted yes to the motion.

The Internship Policy was shared with the members; any questions should be brought to Patty Sullivan. Becky asked for a motion; Gene Mazzella moved, Janice Long seconded. All voted yes to the motion.

David reviewed the SIG history and restoration of SIG funding (increased by about \$500,000) for FY20.

Mary Kay Browne has been curating a comprehensive working list of goals, tools, projects and advocacy goals the members want, as time and funding becomes available. The list has been voted upon in the past. Of the next five years, it will be used as the MCOA action plan. The board will meet with Elder Affairs next week to negotiate SIG priorities; other funding sources will be sought for some priorities. So the MCOA staff will use it as the road map for their work over the next 5 years.

David reviewed the current training agenda for FY20 and highlighted the plans for the DFM team to schedule regional meetings across the state in FY20.

The MCOA Board President Becky Moriarty shared that Senator Rausch is expected to join the annual meeting shortly, to deliver warm remarks to those present. She is a strong supporter and advocate for the needs and interests of the older adults we serve.

At 12:25, Becky Moriarty adjourned the meeting.

The advisory council will meet in the afternoon, after lunch.