

**Montana Lodging & Hospitality Association
General Membership Meeting
Clarion Inn Copper King Hotel: 10-24-18**

Call to Order

President Matt Sease called the 2018 general membership meeting to order at 8:30am. Approximately 50 members were in attendance.

Approval of 2017 Minutes

Motion: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2017 membership meeting. Motion approved.

Financial Reports (Attached)

Stuart Doggett provided explanation of line items and reviewed the income and expense lines to date. Total assets of the association on October 15, 2018 were \$117,727.76.

Motion: Moved and seconded to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

• **Convention / Education Committee Report – Tina Wisner**

Tina Wisner thanked everyone for attending the convention and thanked the Copper King staff for hosting. She noted that we had 26 vendors and approximately 100 attendees.

• **Sales & Marketing Council – Valerie Edwards**

Valerie stated that the Sales & Marketing Council currently has 34 members. The council has had incredible growth and participation the last few years – almost all members are very active. The June 2019 retreat will be held at Cottonwood Inn & Suites in Glasgow. Erica Kimble moved into the president position and Melisa Sigmundstad with the Cottonwood Inn is the new vice-president.

• **Membership/Non-Dues Report – Shelli Mann (Stuart Doggett spoke for her as she was absent)**

Stuart noted at the end of the fiscal year, we had 178 Lodging members, 43 Allied members and 43 Sales and Marketing members.

The Montana Bed & Breakfast Association has also approached MLHA about supporting our legislative efforts. They want to keep their own association but would like to have their 27 members each pay an amount to join to contribute to legislative work. More details to follow as Stuart works with them.

Lastly, Stuart mentioned our new, potential relationship with Chase for credit card processing – an added benefit for members. Again, there will be more details to follow.

• **AHLA & Legislative Report – Steve Wahrlich**

Steve informed us that Katherine Lugar, the CEO of AH&LA, has resigned and is now the National Executive Director of Food/Beverage. He and Matt attended the Legislative Action Summit in Washington DC and met with all our representatives/staff as well as Senator Barrasso of Wyoming, who surprisingly didn't know whom was heading up his state's tourism efforts. There was interest in working together.

They talked about the Online Booking Scam bill and noted that Montana is very well received in Washington DC with our national tourism representatives.

The four properties applying to host the 2019 Fall Tourism Conference & Trade Show presented their properties.

Break – Ballots were distributed.

2019 Board Members

The following slate of officers were presented by David O'Connor on behalf of the Nominations Committee. Four board positions are open with all four being open two-year terms. There is also an additional director position that will be appointment by the Chair for a one-year term. The candidates were given an opportunity to speak to the membership.

Board of Directors running (Lodging)

- Scott Arensmeyer – Town Pump Hotel Group Great Falls
- Bryce Baker – Best Western Golden Prairie Inn Sidney
- Becky Henne – Baymont Inn Helena
- Ryan Kunz – Lone Mountain Ranch Big Sky
- Joe Wilson – Sundowner Inn Forsyth

Board of Directors running (Allied)

- Kim Brown – Lambert Hotels
- Dan Cramer – First West Insurance
- Blair Hope – Procter & Gamble
- Barbara Moran – InnSpace

Lodging Properties applying to host 2019 Convention

- Hilton Garden Inn Kalispell
- Hilton Garden Inn Missoula
- Red Lion Hotel Kalispell
- The Northern Hotel Billings

MSU Hospitality Program

Meg O'Leary and faculty member Marcy Gaston spoke about the MSU Hospitality Program. They currently have 35 students and the program is growing each semester. This spring they will have their first two graduates.

There are three programs: Lodging & Facilities Management, Restaurant Management with a farm to table focus, and Food Enterprise. The students need internships and MSU is reaching out to the MLHA for these learning opportunities. In addition, they are looking for monetary sponsorships.

Legislative and PR Committee Reports, Stuart Doggett and Steve Wahrlich

Steve urged everyone to know who your district representative is – look on the Montana Legislative website by entering your address. He challenged everyone to reach out to their representative and let them know you're available for input and information – everyone must be engaged at the local level.

Stuart then highlighted the bills MLHA is currently tracking for the 2019 session – which starts on January 7th, 2019. He really needs help with input on bills. A 7-9-person Legislative Committee will be formed with current and new board members and they decide if a bill is monitored, supported or opposed.

Resolutions Committee Report

Valerie Edwards and Tim Giesler presented the 2018 Convention Resolutions.

Other Business

Matt Sease with Hampton Inn Whitefish was the recipient of the raffle basket. Proceeds of \$1,044 will be given to the Butte Rescue Mission.

Results of Balloting

The following were announced as elected to the MLHA Board of Directors:

Directors (two years)

- Bryce Baker – Best Wester Golden Prairie Inn Sidney
- Becky Henne – Baymont Inn Helena
- Ryan Kunz – Lone Mountain Ranch Big Sky
- Joe Wilson – Sundowner Inn Forsyth

Allied Directors (two years)

- Barbara Moran
- Blair Hope (Alternate Director)

2019 Conference Location

The membership selected the Hilton Garden Inn - Missoula as the 2019 conference location.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion approved.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55am