

**Montana Lodging & Hospitality Association
General Membership Meeting
Fairmont Hot Springs Resort, October 26, 2016**

Call to Order

President Steve Wahrlich called the 2016 general membership meeting to order at 8:30am. Approximately 60 members were in attendance.

Approval of 2015 Minutes

Motion: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2015 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 13, 2016 were \$134,913.88.

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

Committee Reports

• **Convention / Education Committee Report – Karen Baker**

Karen Baker thanked everyone for attending the convention and thanked the Fairmont staff for their exceptional service. She noted that we had more attendees, first time attendees and vendors than we did last year. End of conference evaluations will be sent out next week, so she reminded everyone to complete them so the committee knows what everyone would like to see in 2017.

• **Membership/Non-Dues Report – Matt Sease**

Matt Sease stressed that we are trying to increase our allied and lodging membership. We have 188 lodging members this year compared to 178 last year. We have 40 allied members, with 35 attending this convention. The board will be discussing current member incentives and programs to boost membership at their January meeting and will let the membership know. He noted that the construction rate of \$200 which has helped get a lot of new properties into the association will continue, so he told members to encourage new builds in their areas to join the association. He also reminded everyone to take advantage of MLHA benefits and remind new members of those benefits.

He ended by thanking the Allied members and Trevor Haar and Greg Elliot for the hard work they have put into the Allied membership.

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

Valerie stated that the Sales & Marketing Council has seen tremendous growth. If all renewals and interested parties follow through, the council will have 45 members which is double of last year.

Valerie will continue her two-year terms as the Sales & Marketing President. Audy Butler was again elected as the Vice-President – a one year term.

She noted that the proposals for the June 2018 Sales & Marketing retreat will present at the council meeting during the 2018 convention. The RFP for the 2017 retreat will be sent out right before Thanksgiving.

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

Steve Wahrlich reported the useful wage and hour information provided by Brian Crawford on how to comply with the new overtime rules will be available in a forthcoming webinar and any new information will be shared with members from the MLHA office. He discussed the value of all members participating in AH&LA and urged members to take action to contact our federal officials when asked by the national organization.

Break – Ballots were distributed.

2017 Board Members

The following slate of officers were presented by Paula Ruark on behalf of the Nominations Committee. Five board positions are open with four being open two year terms and one being an appointment by the Chair for a one year term.

Board of Directors (Lodging)

- Tim Giesler – Ruby’s Inn / Erck Hotels, Missoula
- Ryan Kunz – Rainbow Ranch Lodge, Gallatin Gateway
- Alexander Reichert – Big Sky Resort, Big Sky
- Betty Stone, Cottonwood Inn & Suites, Glasgow
- Joe Wilson, Sundowner Inn, Forsyth

Motion: It was moved and seconded to cast unanimous votes for the four individuals running for the four open board positions. Motion approved.

Board Members (Allied)

- Rick Cabrera, Watco Pools
- Trevor Haar, Big Sky Cabinet Shop

Legislative and PR Committee Reports, Stuart Doggett and Steve Wahrlich

Stuart said it was great to have both governor candidates attend at the convention and answer questions related to tourism. He said CBS news covered and highlighted the governor’s forum held on the previous day.

He noted the legislative session convenes on January 2, 2017. He predicted to that there will be approximately 30% first time legislators. MLHA has a legislative committee system in place that is very effective. Stuart reviewed bills on the MLHA tracking list and highlighted those that may affect MLHA. He asked members to contact him with questions during the session and to please respond with e-mails or in-person testimony to support or oppose bills when needed.

Resolutions Committee Report

Matt Sease and Scott Arensmeyer presented the 2016 Convention Resolutions.

Other Business

Tonya Ater with Chico Hot Springs was the recipient of the raffle basket. Proceeds of \$1555 will be given to Keynote Jeff Kauffman’s Full Circle Foundation.

Results of Balloting

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

Directors

- Tim Giesler – Ruby’s Inn / Erck Hotels, Missoula
- Ryan Kunz – Rainbow Ranch Lodge, Gallatin Gateway
- Betty Stone, Cottonwood Inn & Suites, Glasgow
- Joe Wilson, Sundowner Inn, Forsyth

Rick Cabrera was elected to the position of Allied Director and Trevor Haar will serve as the Alternate Allied Director.

2017 Conference Location

The membership selected Big Sky Resort as the 2017 conference location, with the dates of September 25-27.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 10:20am