

**Montana Lodging & Hospitality Association
General Membership Meeting
Northern Hotel Billings, October 29, 2014**

Call to Order

President Paula Ruark called the 2014 general membership meeting to order at 9am. Approximately 50 members were in attendance.

Paula introduced Rachel, Regional Director from Senator Tester's office, and she read a letter thanking MLHA.

Approval of 2013 Minutes

Motion: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2013 meeting. Motion approved.

Financial Reports (Attached)

Stuart Doggett provided explanation of line items and reviewed the income and expense lines to date, including the financial compilation prepared by the accountants at Laser 1040. It is the first time Voices of Montana Tourism has been segregated out. Total assets of the association on October 30, 2014 were \$73,698.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion approved.

Committee Reports

- **Convention / Education Committee Report – Shelli Mann**
Shelli thanking everyone for attending the convention. She noted that electronic evaluations would be sent out and asked everyone to please fill out and return.

- **Membership/Non-Dues Report – Matt Sease**
Matt Sease commented that the vibrancy and comradery of our group is great. He said we ended the fiscal year with 175 lodging members with a goal of 190 for next year. He noted that the retention goal was to keep 90% of our current membership and we're almost there at 88%. Matt stated that membership starts with you – go out to your communities and recruit.

- **Sales & Marketing Council – Carol Eicher**
Carol stated that the Sales & Marketing Council typically meets twice per year. They had their retreat in June this year at the Hilton Garden Inn in Billings. They had 15 attendees with a lot of new faces which added new networking and good questions. She requested owners and General Managers to encourage Sales & Marketing staff to join the council.

The council is working on increasing membership. Bids for their 2015 retreat (typically in the spring/early summer) are due by November 15th. Please email bids to the MLHA office.

Carol Eichler will remain as the Sales & Marketing President and Stefan Cattarin will remain as the Vice President.

- **Hospitality Council – Alex Tyson**
Alex mentioned that the Hospitality Council conducted a survey of members and non-members. Participants wish the council to be a clearinghouse of information and to facilitate networking opportunities. The Hospitality council wants to develop one big voice at the Legislature as a voice of tourism. The council is looking to increase membership and the

sharing of information. Bylaw changes are being reviewed and a networking event at the Governor's Conference is being planned. If members have additional ideas, please let Maclaren or Alex know.

Maclaren Latta from Mercury CVC will remain as the Chair and Alex Tyson with Visit Billings will remain as the Vice-Chair.

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

Steve Wahrlich noted that a huge transformation just occurred at AH&LA with a new CEO. Independents now have the option of joining (or not joining). He mentioned Hotel iLobby is geared towards grassroots legislative action.

Stuart reported on the upcoming legislative session. He said there is an 8-10 person legislative committee that he asks for input from on certain bills. He noted there are currently 547 bill draft requests filed by legislators and he has flagged 17 for the MLHA bill tracking list.

Steve stated that they'll need member support on certain items. When requests are sent out, please contact your representatives because it makes a world of difference. It will be an active legislative session – the Legislative breakfasts were a primer call to action and MLHA appreciates all the help.

Break – Ballots were distributed.

2015 Board Members

The following slate of officers were presented by Andy Sabatini 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.

Board Members (Lodging)

- Tony Brown, Yogo Inn -- Lewistown
- Tim Giesler, Ruby's Inn and Convention Center – Missoula
- Robert Carette, East Glacier Motel & Cabins and Marina Cay Resort – East Glacier
- Alexandra Reichert, Northern Hotel – Billings
- Ron Spence, Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings
- Joe Wilson, Magnuson Hotels Sundowner Inn -- Forsyth

Board Members (Allied)

- Trevor Haar, Big Sky Cabinet Shop
- Blair Hope, Procter and Gamble
- Jeff Monahan, Montana Broom & Brush

Motion: It was moved and seconded to close nominations from the floor.

Resolutions Committee

Joe Wilson presented the 2014 Convention Resolutions.

Results of Balloting

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

- Tony Brown
- Tim Giesler
- Robert Carette

- Joe Wilson

Blair Hope was elected to the position of Allied Director and Trevor Haar was elected to the Alternate position.

2015 Conference Location

The Board selected the Hilton Garden Inn in Kalispell as the location of the 2015 conference. Michelle Skinner presented the property and talked about how excited they were to have us.

Other Business

Ron Spence was the recipient of the raffle basket. Proceeds of \$1043 will be given to the Education Foundation for Billings Public Schools.

Motion: It was moved and seconded to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:20am