

# APNET BOARD MEETING

1 p.m. Monday, July 13, 2009, Community Service, Inc., Morrilton, AR

**Members present:** Terry Love, Lauren Marquette, Laurie Reh, Jessica Rohlman, Max Snowden, Cindy Stokes, Meshell Ward and Tommie Waters.

**Absent:** Deven Daehn, Chris Becnel and Edna Morgan, all excused. (Melinda Neeley attended as substitute secretary to take minutes.)

APNet President Jessica Rohlman called the board meeting to order.

## **Old Business:**

**501c3 status:** Rohlman announced that APNet had received an IRS letter listing issues with its 501c3 application, and the deadline to correct and re-submit the application was by the end of the day. If APNet pursues the 501c3 application, she said, the organization is required to provide a more detailed description of what the organization does and a copy of the articles of amendment to change its name. The IRS indicated that they think APNet more closely meets the description of a 501c6 organization, which is “primarily” to improve business conditions and focus on advancement of the conditions of trade or the interests of the community; which may involve lobbying. (A 501c3’s main goal is to meet the needs of the community through advocacy, the arts, education, etc., without allocating profit to the owners.) Several questions arose regarding how the application process would carry forth if APNet applied for c3, and just allowed the IRS to “re-assign” it to c6 if they deemed it necessary. Terry called the IRS and got most questions answered as well as an extension until July 27 on the application. It was also determined that APNet could still apply for grants if it became a c6. After thorough discussion, Meshell Ward made a motion for APNet to apply for 501c6 status. Cindy Stokes seconded the motion. The motion carried. The paperwork (Form 1024 and Schedule C) will be turned over to APNet Attorney Terri Chadick, so that she can complete the application.

## **Treasurer’s Report/Meshell Ward:**

Ward said the organization’s current balance is \$5,051.27. A few more new memberships have come in, she said, and some organizations still have vacant spots. Ward said she will put together a letter to let those organizations know they have vacancies and request names of persons they have selected to fill these spots. To date, there are \$1,940 worth of unpaid invoices, she said. Love said he would like to see a list of how many members have officially paid their dues for SFY10. Some are waiting for the new fiscal year to begin before they make a payment, Ward reminded the group. Ward also recommended that APNet purchase its own display board in the future so it can display a list of all of its members at events.

## **Committee Reports/Plans:**

**Membership/Terry Love** – Love said there was a successful membership drive at MidSouth Summer School, but he would also like to see a membership recruiting event. Meshell suggested that if APNet makes a presence at events it should acquire an expanding popup to display the logo, mission statement, etc., and look more professional. Love said he and Chris Becnel will look into this. Love added that he would like board members to research what gatherings might be potentials for recruiting APNet membership.

**Legislative Advocacy Committee/Max Snowden and Lauren Marquette:** Snowden stated that currently his committee did not have much activity going on, but that they will continue attending various meetings such as public health, tobacco, etc. Contacts will be made soon to prepare for legislation time.

**Development Committee/Cindy Stokes:** Stokes said she made an announcement at Mid South asking interested people to please sign up for the Development Committee, but interested parties are not showing up for the meetings. The purpose of the committee is to look at fund-raising opportunities for APNet. Additionally, these committee members will research available grants and will provide ideas and suggestions to the Board concerning funding opportunities. Stokes stated she will write a “blurb” about the Development Committee to send to members in August to help familiarize them with the committee and motivate people to sign up. Love recommended perhaps promoting APNet by offering members a discount on office supplies if they join. Stokes asked the board to please give her any other similar ideas for obtaining APNet support.

**New Business:**

**Travel Reimbursement:** Jessica passed out a hard copy of the travel reimbursement form for APNet member trainings, which requires pre-approval; meals will only be reimbursed if it is an overnight training, she said. The form will be sent out electronically.

**How to Take a Stand on Various Issues:** Love began a discussion about what avenue APNet should take on issues it opposes and how to take a stand on certain issues and maintain respect. Snowden said APNet should speak out, but the question arose as to whether this should be through letters, going to the “little hill,” or through other methods. Snowden said he would speak to legislators about this.

**Mid Year Training:** Rohlman said an adhoc committee will be put together to plan the APNet Mid-Year Training in early October. Meshell volunteered to be on this adhoc committee, and several other names were suggested. These members will be asked if they are interested in being on the adhoc.

**Drug Free Schools:** Love said APNet should take a stand on pushing for Drug Free Schools money because less lobbyists are fighting for it. We might need members to write letters to state representatives, he said. Love stated he will send a letter to board members who can then forward them on to their representatives in hopes of getting a response back. Love then made a motion that the APNet Board send a support letter to Arkansas Congressional Delegates to Washington on behalf of Drug Free Schools. Ward seconded the motion and the motion carried. The letter will go to the Board for review first before sending out.

**Meeting Dates:** The Board agreed that meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month, every three months, with the exception of September. Due to member conflicts, the September meeting will be at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009. The next scheduled meeting will then be Wednesday, Dec. 2. The meeting places are to be announced at a later date.

**Other Business:** Rohlman stated that there was a problem with the drawing for Mid South Summer School scholarships; therefore, scholarships might have to be redistributed. Some of the names drawn are no longer members, she said, and one of the winners was a board member and board members are not supposed to be eligible. The group agreed that in cases where the winner was no longer an APNet member, scholarships should be redistributed within the organization that the winner belonged to. Love made a motion that the board member whose name was inadvertently drawn be allowed to keep the scholarship because it was APNet's error. Marquette seconded the motion. The motion carried. It was also determined that that the awards committee needs to design a way to "score" nominations. Tommie Waters offered to work on the scoring process.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.