

MDA Board Meeting  
February 13, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 AM

Attendance and Introductions: Didem Park-President, Carla Cox-Delegate, Amy Hanavan-New Member Communication Rep, Flower Aston-Treasurer, Alison Harmon-Professional Issues Chair, Colleen Kaiser-Member-at-Large, Katie Bark-Public Policy Coordinator, Deb Jones-Past-President, Jessica Beacom-Member-at-Large, Gen Armstrong-ADAF Fundraising Chair, Nonie Woolf-Nominating Committee Chair, Yvette Phillips-Secretary, Susan Jordan-President-Elect, Pat Bollinger-Board of Medical Examiners Liaison, and CDR Representative.

New Members introductions and goals:

Gen Armstrong- ADAF Fundraising Chair. Plan is to start with new donors. Contest with 2 state scholarships? Booth at expo? She will also continue the main fundraiser, the auction. She will send updates via the newsletters.

Amy Hanavan-New Member Communication Representative.

She is currently completing an internship at Deaconess. She is new to Montana and MDA. Goal is to start creating a network of new members. She is considering a meet and greet at MDA and doing bios and features of new members in the newsletter. She is also learning about, and familiarizing herself with MDA.

Secretary report: Yvette Phillips read the minutes from the November board meeting. She also presented some changes to the policies and procedures as follows: 1) Policy 4.5. Under POLICY: The name will change to: MDA member(s) to legislative workshop. LNC or designee title will be changed to: one member or the Public Policy Committee (often the Public Policy Coordinator or State Policy Representative) or President's designee. LNC's will be changed to: peers, and LNC will be changed to: MDA member. Under Other considerations this statement will be added: Depending on budget constraints, MDA may provide reimbursement for a second member of the Public Policy Committee or President's designee to attend the same workshop in order to provide comprehensive representation and/or training of replacement for the position of Public Policy Coordinator or State Policy Representative. 2) Policy 6.1. The LNC designation will be removed from the list of non-voting members of the board. 3) Policy 7.0. LNC will be removed from the list of current members of the board. 4) Policy 10.5. This policy will be removed, as it is no longer valid. 5) Accounts Listing. #2014 will be removed from the list. 6) The table of contents. Committee; Legislative will be removed from the table.

Carla Cox motioned to approve the minutes and changes to the policies and procedures. Yvette provided second. The motion was passed.

Presidents Report by Didem Park: She has completed the annual report and filed it with ADA. She has hired an accountant, to review the finances. Everything appears to be in order. She also has a number of issues on her agenda including:

- 1) How to handle the new positions job descriptions? Should they be added to the policies and procedures or added to the bylaws? It was discussed that the bylaws are more of a governing document and adding job descriptions may not be appropriate. Nonie proposed we add them to the policies and procedures document under committees. Gen moved to add the ADAF Fundraising chair and New Member Communication Representative job descriptions to committees. Nonie provided second. The motion was passed.
- 2) Need 2 nominees for the leadership institute. The incoming president will be one nominee.
- 3) She has signed up with survey monkey and has a password. This is to be used for the survey of the MDA members. She would like the survey to be sent with the conference registrations, and hopes to have results to share with members by the May meeting.
- 4) National Nutrition month
- 5) Regarding the May Conference-Chris Emerson is willing to help with registrations, 3 LCD projectors are available from the state but someone needs to pick them up and take them to the conference. Deb Jones is willing to do this. Katie will contact Chris for additional projectors as well.
- 6) President-elect duties. Need an ad hoc committee to discuss the concerns of the president-elect conference planning duties. February 27, 2:00 pm has been tentatively set for another board meeting to discuss these issues. Katie suggests board members review documents regarding the position and send ideas, and discussion to Didem prior to the meeting then the board could vote on any issues.
- 7) New Board member training. Didem would like the outgoing members to spend 15-30 minutes with the new officers to orientate them to their jobs.

You can respond personally to Didem regarding any of these issues.

Public Policy Committee report by Katie Bark: Katie would like a letter of MDA support for HB 583 which will support better access to local foods. Also there have been seven bills that MDA has provided testimony for or letter of support including

- 1) HB 212-which will provide financial support to the Montana Food Bank Network, which supplies foods to our local food pantries.
- 2) HB 372-which will exempt breastfeeding mothers from jury duty if it is an undue hardship.
- 3) SB 234-which will support insurance coverage for autism spectrum. Counseling by an RD is included as covered services. Susan Jordan has testified on this bill.
- 4) SB 232-Montana State pancake-a bill to create a Montana State pancake to help promote Montana foods and help educate children about local food systems.

Most pressing however is SB 287. This bill would exempt providers of certain health care services from regulation to allow for consumer freedom and access to the services. Katie encouraged all to send a message today to their senator, as it will be heard on the senate floor soon! It is critical that this bill not be passed as it will affect all licensed health care professionals.

Pat Bollinger also reports this SB 287 was put forward by Health Care freedom. It is a poorly written bill that would grant privileges to unlicensed persons to offer health services. Individuals that had their license removed could practice. It would allow unqualified persons to offer health services. It would make it easier to freely access alternative health care. It would also allow practitioners to practice without fear of reprimand, or practice without guideline. Therefore it is urgent to send letters to Senators to stop this legislation. It would impact all health care providers.

The Public Policy workshop: Montana had the 5<sup>th</sup> highest registration. There will be a lot to follow regarding public policy. The webinars are still available if interested in viewing them.

It was noted that Minkie Medora was nominated for the ADA award for grassroots Excellence by MDA. While she did not receive the award, it was a great way to recognize her for her work.

Senator Baucus was awarded the 2009 ADA Public Policy Leadership Award. They will try to present him the letter when he is available in Montana. Katie asks that all send a personalized note or thank you card to Senator Baucus thanking him for his service.

Bozeman Dietetic Association by Flower Aston: The Bozeman Dietetic association has an agreement with MDA. Did vote yes on it. Currently they have \$146.89 in their treasury. Main goal is educational events. They had a sports nutrition presentation recently with 5 dietitians in attendance.

Treasurers Report by Flower Aston: MDA does now have a debit card. She will report on the ongoing budget. Currently the total expenses are \$2400, and total income is \$50. The 3 First Security CDs, and the American Funds CD total \$44,934. The checking account balance is \$5333, down from \$17000. This was adjusted as it was discovered the hotel costs from last year's conference had not been entered. This finding does not affect the new budget. It is noted the 18 month CD matures in May, and the other 2 mature in October. All have decreased in value with the downturn in the economy. As of yesterday they were down \$11000.

Nonie asks the costs for a conference call, and if the conference calls are grouped under a number. She desires to know the cost so she can budget it under the nominating committee. She will give Flower the dates of their call so she can determine whose budget to put it under.

Also noted that if 2 CD's mature in May we may need to consider cashing them in to help pay for the conference.

Conference Report by Susan Jordan: The agenda is set. She has been working on online registration and promoting people to come. She has send off paperwork to CDR and expects 16 credits. The online registration should be ready now. She will talk to Dave about registering through the web site. She has set a 1 or 2 day rate, a student rate, as well as a MAADE rate. Didem asks about advertising. Susan did email the Wyoming association and offered them membership rates.

MAADE wanted more diabetes credits, and essentially pulled out of the partnership with MDA for the conference. The diabetes sessions are on both days, about ½ of a day each. MAADE does want a cheaper rate than membership rate. Discussion was had as to the rate for MAADE members such as a discount one day rate, a one day rate and the second day for \$20, or to charge a 1 day rate for both days. It was decided to offer the one day rate for both days.

Internship Update by Alison Harmon: A survey was put out in the fall, to prospective preceptors. It was determined we could support an internship.

A proposal was then developed and the Dean agreed this is feasible.

They have hired an individual to develop the structure and work with preceptors. They will need a 14-person internship to make it profitable. They still need 5-10 preceptors. The timeline is to begin the program in the fall or summer of 2011.

Carla suggests to put something out at MDA for preceptors. However, Alison hopes to have it done before MDA.

HOD Report by Carla Cox: This year due to finances it has been decided to have the spring meeting via the internet.

The two major issues the HOD are discussing are 1) Childhood obesity and where does the RD fit in. Will document an overview of who is involved in the management of child obesity. 2) Changing structure of HOD. They are looking at restructuring the HOD due to finances. Looking at having the DPG's have a delegate and they will pay for it. Essentially it looks as if it will shift costs rather than reduce them. Will send updates via the list serve in the fall and spring. Also will have updates in the newsletter.

Billings Dietetic Association by Beth Hall: Beth Stresses she is not the president of the Billings Dietetic Association just an interested party. She is requesting board approval to have the Billings Dietetic Association become an affiliated group of MDA. They would report to MDA.

The goal and Intentions of the Billings Dietetic Association are to support activities, which would provide continuing education. They would maintain one board member who would also be a member of telemedicine. They would be organizing speakers and televise them through telemedicine.

In becoming an affiliated group of MDA, members need to be members of ADA. They realize the cost of this may be prohibitive to some, however they may develop a scholarship fund to help with dues. They would then require the scholarship recipient help in some way.

It is discussed that the Billings group and the Bozeman group could not both be referred to as BDA. Discussion as to what to call each group considered Eastern Montana Dietetics Association for Billings, or for Bozeman to be BoDA and Billings be BDA. The concern with Billings being called the Eastern Montana Dietetics Association is that this group is focused in Billings, and down the road it could create problems if other groups in the area would be interested in forming groups. It has been decided to call Bozeman BDA, and Billings will be referred to as MDA Billings.

The Billings group desires to first be approved by MDA and then it will go forth with elections, and framework for their program, ect.

Carla moved to approve the Billings group as an affiliate of MDA, with Nonie providing second. However it was determined a quorum was no longer present on the teleconference call. The voting will be brought to members via the internet for online voting.

MDA Elections and ballot by Nonie Woolf: They need to have the outstanding educator and outstanding student to ADA by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Poles close on March 27 and ballots to be counted on the 28-30. This means to have adequate time for voting the ballots need to be out February 25. Nonie needs nominees by February 20 to get the ballot ready.

For president elect, Beth Hall has been nominated. There have been no nominations for the secretary. Nonie will check to see who ran in the past that was not voted in. Flower will be resigning her position as treasurer. Didem will contact someone who may be interested.

Nonie has some other individuals who had been previously nominated, but did not get elected, who may be interested in a position.

The nominating committee needs 2 new members. Nonie has a number of people to contact. Deb suggests we involve some of the new members to MDA.

For the Recognized Dietitian of the Year, Lisa Ranes, and Didem Park were nominated. There are no nominees yet for the Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year. For the Emerging Leader Flower Aston has been nominated. The MDA student of the Year and the Dietetic Educator leader are ADA awards. The notices for these will come to Didem.

If there are any more names please send them to Nonie, Charlene, or June.

Other Discussion: The next board meeting will be held on May 14, in the evening. This is the first day of conference meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Yvette Phillips, RD, LN  
MDA secretary