

WSSA Conference Planning Committee Meeting
Holiday Inn and Convention Center Stevens Point, WI
August 3, 2007

Meeting Called to order at 9:40am

Introduction of members: Co-Chairs Marjean Sutherland and Edie Udulutch, Treasurer Janet Popp, Secretary Cheryl Woltman, Fred Baewer, Jim Bestul, Mark Schmitt, Jaci Fuller, Sherri Arnold, Faith Valenti and Tim Morgan.

Future Meeting dates: All meetings to be held at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. All meeting will begin at 9:30am: September 14 and October 19th 2007, January 11th 2008. Midyear conference will be November 29 and 30th. A November meeting date TBA if necessary. Future 2008 meetings will be discussed at a later date. The WSSA Conference will be May 28-30th 2008 at the Chula Vista Resort.

We did not meet with the 2006/2007 Conference Planning Committee.

Evaluations from recent conference: Copies passed out for review. Discussion was that on a whole, all was very positive. Food and meal issues are always a concern but are very difficult to control with budgetary limits. There was discussion about possibly having to sign up for workshops in order to give the speakers a better opportunity to plan (handouts, etc...). When we meet with executive board later on, we will discuss #8 on the evaluation: Could we invite you to become more actively involved in WSSA?

November 29-30th Midyear Conference: Much discussion on what tracts to have. Family Care ?, ADRC's ?, ESS ? We will try to pursue a more generic tract to include everyone. Sherri had several ideas for COMMUNICATION and will contact Roseanne thru Goodwill. Jim came up with title "Communicating with the Purse Strings"- we hope to include several area politicians (Rep from Russ Feingold's office /Tammy Baldwin) and county board members to facilitate a panel discussion on how to communicate with government to get what we want and need. Edie suggested Ruby Payne's program "Bridges Out of Poverty" as she knows a facilitator in the area who is trained to do this and who we can get most likely for free or at least very reasonably priced.

Registration for midyear will be from 8:30-9am

The Communications workshop/panel will be from 9am-12noon

Lunch 12noon-1pm, will try to do the buffet, will look at next meeting

Bridges Out of Poverty from 1-4pm

Dinner- for those staying, we will go out as a group for dinner or dinner on your own

Conference Theme Ideas: We are going with a HOLLYWOOD theme this year. “WSSA Productions Presents The Stars of Wisconsin Social/Human Services”. Mark will work on designing a director’s clap board nametag to laminate from a design found in the Oriental Trading catalog. Several other decorating ideas found there as well and Mark shared these as he had his lap-top up and running.

Eddie passed out Chula Vista Resort packets to everyone. Eddie will reserve up to 4 rooms and will check on the room rate for those wanting to stay the night before our meetings.

Chula Vista will honor the state rate for those wanting to come the Monday night (Memorial Day night) before conference and they will honor it thru the week-end after conference as well if you’d like to stay.

The room rate is \$82 based on double occupancy with \$8 for each additional occupant.

We have 4 suites reserved. We will get one complimentary room for every 50 paid.

Chula Vista will donate one free week-end stay as a door prize.

\$500 deposit has already been paid to Chula Vista

Tim may be able to lend a LED to use as a “marquee” for conference

Eddie will contact Historian Kathy Brown to go thru pictures to use on a CD to play at conference - “Stars of WSSA” – we hope to have it running continually at conference. Eddie will work on this with Mark.

Vendors: Fred gave a report on findings from recent conference. The table fee had been \$15 plus \$25 for electricity. WSSA and the Alzheimer’s group swap slots at each others conferences but they were a “no show” for ours. CCDET showed up but had not pre-paid. There are usually 15 to 20 vendors who show. If anyone has any ideas for future vendors, please let Fred know! Chula Vista charges \$25 per table including linen. It is unknown at this time what the charge is for electric or internet hook-up.

Any vendor who is a break sponsor gets a free table with a “prime” location.

A big THANKS to Fred for all the hard work it takes to get the vendors, then to organize it all and see it thru!

WSSA web site update: Mark spoke about all the issues he was having with the current site holder and the price increase they wanted (\$350 a year vs. the old \$100 year rate)- Mark told them we were not going to pay that increase and to release our rights but they are not complying and all Mark gets is a run around. We can not transfer to a new company until the old company releases us. Later in the day, Mark was finally able to converse with the old company and our domain was being released TODAY! Our new rate with the new company will be \$120 for 2 years. Mark will continue to work on this all- THANKS MARK!

Meeting with WSSA President and exec committee: Christy Mancl thanked everyone who was serving on the planning committee. She is working on her presidents letter for the Update which is expected to go out in Sept./Oct. Christy will contact all those who expressed an interest in becoming more actively involved in WSSA from the evaluation forms.

Ideas for conference topics: Paula Hintze passed around some books by Chad Helmstetter – she had just attending an event where he was a speaker and thought of him as a possible speaker.

Goals and Budget: Marjean and Janet will pencil together a budget and present it at our next meeting for review and discussion.

Motion to adjourn by Janet, second by Jim

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Woltman
Secretary