

Midwest Area MBA Business Meeting – March 20, 2010

Opening prayer: Brother Bret Gensburg

Communications:

- Brother Josh Morris: unable to attend and is stepping down from Treasurer position
- Brother Mike and Sister Barb Nuzzi: unable to attend and is stepping down from Auditor positions
- Sister Jessica Batson: unable to attend and is stepping down from Assistant Secretary position
- Sister Natalie Pezzenti: unable to attend and is stepping down from Editor position
- Sister Lisa Francione: unable to attend

Roll call of officers

The minutes were read and accepted.

Old business

- Cancellation policy has been enforced with Area retreat registrants.
- Retreat still fell back to back with Region Conference dates, despite the recommendation to avoid this. This happened because of availability with the retreat site.
- An itemized report of retreat expenses was submitted last year for the retreat.

Officer's reports

- Sister Brianne Miller read Financial Secretary report; total amount received for 2009 \$1925.00
- Brother Josh's report read by Sister Christine Maddox
 - o Clarification was asked on Brother Josh's report; Brother Chuck Maddox attempted to clarify the money situation
- Brother Mike's and Sister Barb's report was read by Sister Christine Maddox
 - o **The books were not audited this year.**
- Sister Natalie Pezzenti's report read by Sister Christine Maddox
- Sister Lisa Francione did not send a report for head deaconess

All reports accepted.

New business

Election of officers

- President: Brother Chuck Maddox Jr.
- Vice President: Brother Lucas Martorana
- Chaplain: Brother Dan McNamara
- Secretary: Sister Christine Maddox
- Assistant Secretary: Sister Gretchen Dietz
- Financial Secretary: Sister Brianne Miller
- Treasurer: Brother Wayne Martorana

- Brother Wayne agreed to take on this position for 1 year in order to help train the next person to take on the position in the coming election. Sister Brianne agreed to let Brother Wayne train her in the coming year so that she could be ready to fill the treasurer position next year.
- Auditors: Brother Mike and Sister Linda Italiano
- Historian/Editor: Sister Elizabeth Kall
- Head Deaconess: Sister Lisa Francione

The Midwest Area email system is created through Yahoo and it is no longer efficient because so many email addresses are inaccurate. It has been suggested that we use the General Church's new email system which means that the Midwest Area members need to subscribe to the church's email system in order to get Midwest Area MBA emails.

- It was suggested that we send out one final email via Yahoo to let people know that we are switching email systems.
- Sister Dora Armstrong has the ability to send emails to all region presiding elders, along with all ministers, teachers, and secretaries. It was suggested that we send out an email via Sister Dora about the General Church email system.

We are interested in having a campout committee: people who search for new sites, bargain for contracts, etc. We are interested in having people with actual experience in negotiating and contracts.

- Sister Linda Italiano volunteered to be a part of it.
- Brother Wayne Martorana and Brother Bret Gensburg also agreed to be part of the committee.

We have been asked by the GMBA to not have an area camp in 2011 so that people can support the World Missionary Conference (World Missionary Conference) in 2011. Our next area camp would then be in 2012.

- Brother Chuck Maddox Senior suggested that we could replace our area camp in 2011 with a smaller event so that people could save money for the WMC.
- Sister Linda Italiano think that the GMBA's request is a very reasonable request.
 - Sister Linda offered her brother's bowling alley for a bowling event and pizza party at zero cost for the brothers and sisters.
- A motion was made and seconded to follow GMBA's suggestion and postpone our area camp until 2011.

Brother Dwayne Worley has been working hard on our area website. He would like some help on this. Sister Rachel Gensburg has offered her assistance. The area is looking to revamp the website, update the articles, etc. The website address will remain the same; it will visually change.

- Brother Josh Gehly offered his assistance as well to help market the website on internet search engines.
- Brother Dwayne wanted to know if we could have a shopping cart type function in order for people to order goods on our website.
- Brother Bret reminded everyone that the webmaster should not be responsible for the web content. It is the region's responsibility to supply the content.

- Brother Ron Giovannone suggested that we follow the GMBA web guidelines for posting appropriately on the website.
- Brother Josh suggested having such website amenities as a “Chaplain Corner” where Brother Dan writes a monthly blurb for the website.
- Brother Chuck, as president, has the final say on what content appears on the website.

Fall Fest 2010 was discussed.

- It was suggested to pay closer attention to the money for this event.
- It was suggested that the officers make sure that the event is fiscally responsible by asking for monetary donations, etc.
- The idea of an admission fee for the event was discussed; some were in favor while others were opposed.
- The idea of fundraising for the event was proposed.
- It was suggested that we have a person in charge of the Fall Fest so that they can try to get food, drink donations and find other ways of offsetting the cost.
- A motion was made and seconded to have the Fall Fest in 2010. **The officers will revisit the location and date later.**

Fundraisers for the area were discussed. Currently, we have the auction each year and t-shirts for sale.

- It was discussed that we appoint someone to lead the fundraising initiative for the Area MBA.
- It was pointed out that we already have local fundraising initiatives in each branch/mission. We need to be aware of these directives so that we aren’t taking over from other efforts.
 - o Based on this and the unclear financial situation, it was suggestion that we put the financial situation on hold until the officers, treasurer, and financial secretary find out the current financial situation.
 - o **We would like to, in lieu of having a retreat in 2011, help someone or some people attend the WMC.** We should keep this in mind as we consider finances.

The GMBA has asked every local to participate in a Strong Local Campaign. They believe it should work from the bottom up, where if the locals are strong, the GMBA will be strong. So, the officers will be working to set up meeting times with each local to present the Strong Local Campaign to the individual branches/missions. This will be forthcoming by the end of July.

The Powwow in Columbus, Ohio was discussed. Brother Jon Genaro, Brother Mark Naro, Brother Joe Pennell, Brother Wayne Martorana, and Brother Alan Metzler are the current members of the committee set to work with the Powwow. The Area MBA will be mindful of Powwow dates and keep one of the dates/year open so that people can attend both the MBA events and the Powwow.

- It was suggested that one of the Powwows become the area MBA events.
 - o Brother Wayne said that the Powwow can’t handle that many people at one event.

In lieu of not having a retreat, Brother Wayne suggested having an outdoor campout outside of Liberty Branch, along with the bowling Sister Linda suggested earlier.

- Brother Mike Italiano said that we could use that as a fundraiser for the area as well. Since the bowling alley won't charge us for use, we could charge \$5 for bowling and put that money towards the area MBA.

The canoe weekend near Cincinnati was also discussed. Brother Chuck Maddox Senior said that the branch is open to having that event again.

Brother Ron Giovannone said that perhaps Cincinnati could host an event for the Area MBA in September during the Region Conference.

It was also suggested that we have a joint retreat with Pennsylvania/Mid-Atlantic region in 2011. This was suggested to help with numbers (since the economy is making it hard for people to attend). The location would be in a neutral location such as West Virginia.

- The officers will look into this possibility.

The Michigan lock-in has also been successful for that area. We should keep this in mind as well when considering future activities.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Closing prayer: Sister Courtney Batson