

VTAA Board of Directors meeting.  
Friday Jan 12, 2024, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Present: President - Catherine Lumenello, Vice President - Montana Burns, Board Director - Deirdre Kelley,  
Board Director - Greg Soll

Absent: Treasurer - Mitya Schoppe, Director - Scott Moylan

1. Approve minutes from December 2023

- Approved by Catherine, Montana, and Greg (Deirdre was not present for Dec mtg) - this does not meet quorum.
- DECISION: Catherine will reach out to get approval from Scott and Mitya via email; may need to get approval at the next meeting.

2. Task check-ins: ASA, Front Porch Forum, mailbox, etc. (see the meeting minutes from December)

- ASA - Catherine has paperwork from Li to become the alternate rep; reconfirmed that in 6-12 months Catherine would move to primary and Greg will become the alternate.
- Mailbox - Greg began forwarding to Mitya and closing out PO Box, Mitya should be on the lookout for a piece of mail regarding this change of address.
  - IRS Letter indicating absent filing for 2022: Greg will send to Montana and Catherine via email photo to address this with April Brumson and Dianne Barclay.
  - Returned Letters from Annual meeting: Greg will send Montana a list of addresses.
- Advertising / Social Media
  - VPR ad still in the works, want to consider multiple avenues of promotion.
  - Front Porch Forum - held up due to not having a business address. Continuing to look into the cost of running statewide ads, Greg will continue to do this.
  - Dierdre's idea of an Instagram campaign over the next six months, potential ad campaigns through. Deirdre will start an Instagram account.
  - VTAA account on facebook - get access and assign someone to regularly post / invite members to submit posts?
  - Consider hiring someone to do advertising through Instagram
  - All advertising will begin after the website is updated.
- Minutes: Still currently looking for meeting minutes from 03/06/23, 06/23
  - Misty hasn't located these; Dierdre is going to look in her files.

3. Reinstating a member to full access (ie, list serve)

- A Member who was taken off the listserv has paid their membership dues and is looking to be reinstated with full access. According to the bylaws they should be granted access again after the probationary year long period.
- If any future issues develop the BOD would follow the Code of Conduct outlined in the Bylaws.
- MOTION: To reinstate this member to full access. Montana motioned, Dierdre seconded, unanimous agreement.

4. Treasurer's Report: Mitya not present, Catherine will follow up with her.

5. Membership attrition: down to 51 members now, and many long-time members (former BOD members included) have left.

- Lost more members in 2023 than in 2019-2023. Typically down 10-11 per year; this year 19.
- Still need to better understand why members are not renewing.
- DECISION: institute a "scholarship level" for members who can not afford \$150 membership.
  - Proposal to add a note on the membership page to email us if you can not afford and still want to be a member.
  - In future we may consider asking individuals who are given scholarships to volunteer, or contribute to the organization somehow. Will first see how scholarships go before we want to set any kind of limitations.
  - Catherine will see about this category getting added to the current website with Beth.

6. Discussion about website - questions sent in by Beth:

a. Does this change require wider membership consensus before actual implementation since [agreement with statement] is a de facto new requirement for membership?

- Code of ethics and Anti-oppression statement are already part of the bylaws.
- Board agrees that these ethics are all already a part of our charter.

b. Would paying by check provide an unintended loophole? How would that be managed? We still have older members who decline to interface with the website.

- Seems like Montana will be able to handle this case by case, as there are only a few members who don't interface with the website.
- Members would be initiated after signing.

c. Do we wish to collect "no, do not accept" responses somehow?

- Can put something there for people to email us, do not need to collect.

7. Email:

- Montana is the recipient of the general gmail emails. This is often a burden.
- Will start a process of email forwarding.

- DECISION: Will check in with Montana and continue a process to make it more manageable.

8. Goal setting: what else do we need to prioritize from the November meeting?

- Leaving for next time since we ran out of time.

Next Meeting: Catherine sending out google form for us all to figure out a time.

Respectfully submitted by Greg Soll on 1/30/2024