

NEOA Annual Business Meeting - April 11, 2024

DoubleTree Hilton - Burlington, VT

Presiding Chair: Lindsay Carpenter

Recording Secretary: Julie Coon

Parliamentarian: Sarah Morrell

Call to Order at 8:43 AM

Quorum Established at 8:44 AM

Approval of Agenda - President, Lindsay Carpenter presents agenda.

Action: To approve the agenda

Motion by: **Mona Savastano**

Second by: **Josh Gagnon**

Motion carries, unanimously

Secretary Report - Submitted by **Julie Coon** (on behalf of Gaurav K., 2022-2023 Secretary)

Action: To approve Annual Business Meeting minutes (April 2023)

Motion by: **Josh Gagnon**

Second by: **Jess Coronel**

Motion carries, with 3 abstentions

Treasurer's Report - Matt Bourgault reports out.

- **Please refer to the full 2023-2024 report for details & actuals.** Some highlights:
- Fiscal year runs Sept. 1 - Aug. 31.
- Last year, we spent more than we brought in, leftovers from COVID (less expenses). Still catching up, things cost more than they used to. Spent roughly \$24k more.
- Annual conference brought in 118.95% more than expected.
- Misc. line is what we brought in from the football fundraiser (\$4,171.92).
- Dealt with some fraud this year, reflected in the report.
- Member and state dues are a big part of our income (\$18,325).
- National TRIO Day income was \$44,945 (a little less than anticipated).
- AMLI brought in \$8,250.
- Total income = \$207,939.06
- Expenses went up (conference hotel, speaker costs, etc.)
- In addition, as part of expenses, we pay dues to COE, advertising, FairShare, annual conference gift basket, Board travel expenses, etc.
- Policy Seminar State Membership expenses right on target.
- Policy Seminar dinner exceeded budget.
- NEOA Board Meeting costs also went up this year (lodging, meals, travel, etc.).
- COE Executive Leadership Institute expenses.

- President and President-Elect account available to spend at their discretion.
- Technology expenses (equipment, virtual resources, etc.)
- TRIO Day 2024 expenses balanced out, as lodging was more expensive, but tour buses were less.
- Bottom Line: -\$24, 242.87

Action: To approve Treasurer's Report

Motion by: **Steffaney Wilcox**

Second by: **Rick Williams**

Motion carries, unanimously with 0 abstentions

Finance Committee Report - Chris Lee reports out.

- As compared to what the Treasurer does on a day-to-day, detailed level, I take a 10,000 foot view of our financials.
- I reconcile our checking account month to month.
- Checking account balance as of the end of February 2024 is: **\$244,022.39.**
- We have more in our account now than we spent this year.
- 5 year checking account overview - have not dipped below \$200k since mid-2021.

Action: To approve Finance Report

Motion by: **Arielle Derival**

Second by: **Dylan Bertolini**

Motion carries, unanimously with 0 abstentions

President's Report - Lindsay Carpenter reports out.

- Three goals of my presidency:
 - 1) Invest in DEI - Castro Collaborative being utilized to provide Board training (this week, May and June), and at tomorrow's plenary speakers for the membership.
 - 2) Work with committees (standing and ad hoc) to foster collaboration among the committees.
 - 3) Support individual states - Board wants to help support states and their memberships.
- NEOA President also sits on the COE Board and several committees.
- Thank you for supporting me.

Action: To approve President's Report

Motion by: **Mona Savastano**

Second by: **April Donohue**

Motion carries, unanimously with 0 abstentions

By-Laws - Brian Post reports out.

- Every professional organization has by-laws and it is important to revisit them regularly and make any proposed updates/changes.
- Current proposed amendments:
 - Officer terms of service/tenure: proposed clarification of language for President, President-Elect, and Past President.
 - Proposed 2-year terms for election of Secretary and Treasurer.
 - Proposed updates to language to be inclusive - removed she/he, changed to they/them/their.
 - DEI was an ad hoc committee, proposed changing to a standing committee.

- Proposed clarifying language to references of Affirmative Action and Ability.

Action: To approve proposed updates to by-laws

Motion by: **Josh Gagnon to approve each of the proposed by-laws amendments by acclamation**

Second by: **Laura Mielke**

Discussion: Reggie Jean voiced his concern that regular members can continue to be voted in and appointed. Worried that a 2-year term for Secretary might be too much to commit to. Melissa Goyait affirmed that the Treasurer position really benefits from a 2-year term, from a learning curve perspective. Bryce Mackenzie asked if the Secretary and Treasurer terms could be offset in opposite years? Reggie again voiced concern related to checks and balances. Erica Hernandez likes that we're being very specific, thinks that fresh ideas and new people in positions is a good thing (supports a 1-year term for Secretary).

Friendly Amendment: Reggie Jean proposes that the Treasurer shall be elected for a 2-year term, and the Secretary shall be elected for a 1-year term, but may continue for consecutive terms if re-elected.

Accepted by: **Josh Gagnon**

Discussion: nothing further

Motion, as amended, carries at 9:37 AM, with 1 abstention

President-Elect's Report - **Yara Zoccarato** reports out.

- Stated goals for upcoming year as President.
- Contracted hotel for upcoming TRIO Day and Annual Conference in 2025.

Past President's Report - **Rob Pote** reports out.

- Role is to make sure we meet our Fair Share goals. Also in charge of the NEOA Board election slate.
- Update on FairShare State Report.
- Appreciative of having Kim Jones in person at our conference.
- Changing dynamic of COE and local levels.

New Business:

- Open nominations from the floor for positions:
 - Please note that there were no nominations from the floor, but Rob Pote read aloud the names those candidates nominated to date for each position.
 - There were no nominations of eligible candidates received for President-Elect or the Rhode Island State Liaison before or during the business meeting.
- Rob Pote asked for a motion to close nominations.

Action: To close nominations

Motion by: **Reggie Jean**

Second by: **Sarah Morrell**

Discussion: none

Motion carries, unanimously with 0 abstentions

- Members running for open Board positions came forward to introduce themselves.
- Vote takes place electronically via QR code.

Motion to adjourn: Reggie Jean
Seconded by: Ginny Ward
Motion carries, unanimously, 0 abstentions at 10:00 AM

New Board elected for the 24-25 year:

- President-Elect: *open*
- Treasurer: Matt Bourgault (*re-elected*)
- Secretary: Julie Coon (*re-elected*)
- Vice President: Heather Bacchiocchi
- CT State Liaison: Fiorela Hidalgo
- MA State Liaison: Naomi Brown-Jones
- ME State Liaison: Ginny Ward (*re-elected*)
- NH State Liaison: Melissa Goyait
- RI State Liaison: *open*
- VT State Liaison: Michele Feiner

NEOA Conversations: 4/11/24 from 1:30-2:15 PM in the Exhibition Hall

- Informal discussions were held amongst general membership in attendance, regarding the board election, open positions, and nomination/ballot process.
- Write-in candidates were asked to obtain nominating papers in compliance with the NEOA by-laws, if willing to run and serve, and submit them to the chair of the nominating committee by the end of the day. Those names will appear on a separate slate to be sent to the membership in April.

**Next Annual Business Meeting:
NEOA Conference - April 2025
Warwick, RI**