



Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association



Region VII Iowa – Kansas – Missouri – Nebraska
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

**Region VII Board of Directors Meeting
Kansas City Conference, Westin Crown Center
May 13th, 2009**

Present: Jon Alexander, Carol Schwartzkopf, John Izzolena, Dan Saathoff, Rod Swager, Randy Bickford, Randie Mendez, Ken Matveia, Daniel Cruse, Mike Murphy, Tom Hauber, Greg Dew, Ray Magruder, Matt Gaines, and Shashi Patel.

Visitors: Cheri Delehant, Mary Potter, Jane Whillock, Deb Riley

Absent: None

Meeting: Conference Closing

Jon Alexander: Good job to all those involved with the Kansas City conference. Your hard work and perseverance is very much appreciated. Everyone did an excellent job. A final appreciation was given to all resigning board members for their participation throughout their reign. Region VII has prospered in character and participation because of each and everyone involved.

Road Map:

The roadmap will be updated with approved suggestions and distributed to Conference Planning Committee for 2010 by Randie Mendez, Conference Chairperson.

National Anthem:

Carrie Christy did an excellent job in singing the National Anthem during our opening general session. The Conference Planning Committee will continue to look for a singer for the Omaha/LaVista conference.

Exhibitors:

It was discussed that the exhibitors will leave on Tuesday after the last break instead of Wednesday. The Conference Planning Committee will discuss in more detail.

Speakers:

Gary Zelesky was a great speaker at the Kansas City conference. Randie will continue to work with the Five Star Speakers Bureau to select next year's keynote. Tom Jacob was an excellent closing speaker and motivator for all attendees. Attendee's positive feedback was recognized by various board members.

Workshops: At a couple of workshops the moderators were duplicated for the speakers at simultaneous scheduled workshops. For the Omaha conference- Jon Alexander will work on the list of workshops. Omaha will have 6 breakout sessions. A discussion was held regarding providing the same workshop at different times, so attendees who wanted to attend

could, if they were held at different times. Workshops are only offered once to attendees. This topic will be discussed at future meetings. The Application Workshop and Sustaining Star Quality (SSQ) workshop had excellent attendance and will remain on the Monday prior to the conference workshops. Speakers will be asked to make their PowerPoint presentation available to attendees. Two suggestions were made in regards to the handouts and presentations: 1) Room moderators will have a flash drive to download the presentation before the workshop to be made available on website. A flash drive will be given to a designated board member for downloading purposes. 2) Website will advertise "Going Green" in regards to handouts. A copy of speaker's handout will be downloaded onto the website and made available to attendees who prefer a printed copy. Moderators will inform attendees during speaker introductions at the workshop.

Communications : Karen Hartman has agreed to photograph the Omaha conference. Karen will send out a CD of conference pictures of the Kansas City conference. Many compliments were given to Karen for her pictures. The CD will be sent to Ray or Tom for downloading onto the website. Jon will be delegating the conference workshop booklet to Ray Magruder and Tom Hauber for Omaha 2010. Jon will be assist if needed, for information and proofreading. Contract negotiations will be needed for 2011 for free internet access by board members and speakers.

Misc:

Expenses: Region VII will no longer be responsible for Jane Whillock's expenses for future conferences. A portable printer will be purchased for future conferences. A back up laptop computer maybe needed in case the speaker's presentation is not compatible with projector.

Parking:

Complaints of the cost of parking were made from attendees and exhibitors. Omaha has free parking for 2010 conference. Board of Directors will look at negotiating parking validation with future contracts.

Conference Evaluations

Dan Saathoff will review conference evaluations and distribute results to board members.

Letters of Appreciation: Jon Alexander needs a list of names of Direct Managers of the Board of Directors, Speakers, Moderators and Volunteers. A letter of appreciation will be sent to the manager's thanking them for their commitment in allowing these individuals to take part in our conference. An email blast was sent to all attendees that attended the conference helping to make the 2009 conference a great success.

The meeting was adjourned at 1430 hours by Chair Jon Alexander.

Respectfully submitted,

Randie Mendez