

# ASEA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

AUGUST 17, 2024

President Jeff Jackson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Secretary Holli Patrick conducted a roll call of board members, and a quorum was present.

## Present

Jeff Jackson

Dona Bowry

Holli Sublett

Judy Beatty

Loy Bailey

Lisa Rhodes

Brock Baker

Greg Murray

Matthew Thomas

Chasity Lucas

Jerry Jones

Gary Wallace

Dorothy Henderson

## Present

Laura Sherwood (Zoom)

Jordan Schwartz (Zoom)

Mary McGehee

Bob McQuade

Jennifer Siccardi

Charles Elliot \*

Curt Carson

Brandy Watkin

Heinz Braun

James Scott

Clayton Rogers

Toniesha Sargent

Sharon (ASEA)

## Absent

Janice Griffin (Excused)

Alyssa Duggan (Excused)

Celeste Sorrells

Jim Abson

Nick (ASEA)

\* Arrived after Roll Call

President Jeff Jackson read the excuses submitted by Janice Griffin and Alyssa Duggan. **Motion made by Loy Bailey to approve absences by those individuals who submitted an excuse; second by Gary Wallace with the Motion Passed.**

President Jeff Jackson advised he would entertain a motion to accept the agenda as printed. **Motion made by Gary Wallace to approve the agenda; second by Bob McQuade with the Motion Passed.**

President Jeff Jackson addressed the board regarding his time on the board and his time as President of ASEA over the last four years. He thanked everyone for making his term successful and looks forward to serving as past President.

President Jeff Jackson administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected officers, Dona Bowry – President, Holli Patrick-Vice President, and Chasity Lucas-Secretary. Photos were taken.

John Bridges asked the members to review the handout and review the new board member application submitted by Jessica Zimmerman, DHS County Admin from Faulkner County. Jessica was on the Zoom call and introduced herself to the board and stated she would like to be a voice for employees and serve on the board. **Motion made by Holli Partick to accept Jessica Zimmerman as a new board member; second by Mary McGehee with the Motion Passed.**

President Dona Bowry asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the minutes, and asked if there were any questions, changes, or any concerns. James Scott advised his name was marked absent and he was present for the last meeting. Brock Baker stated he was marked absent but attended via zoom. Mary McGehee stated that she was marked absent but should have been marked excused as she had submitted an email. Dorothy Henderson stated she was marked absent and should have been excused as she submitted an email regarding attending a funeral. Holli Patrick recommended that we start attaching all requests to be excused to the meeting packets for members to review. **Motion made by Heinz Braun to accept the minutes with changes to attendance; second by Brock Baker with the Motion Passed.**

### **President's Report –Dona Bowry**

Dona Bowry welcomed everyone to the meeting. She is looking forward to the future of ASEA, working along with the board members to better serve state employees and serving as President of the association for the next two years. She expressed that she appreciates everyone's support for her and is looking forward to her time as President.

### **Executive Director's Report – John Bridges**

#### *\*Financial Report*

John reported that revenue was up over last year. Expenses were up over last year but both companies made money to the tune of a little over \$200,000. ASEA gave out \$40,000 in scholarships this year which was amazing for students. Overall, it was a good year. We have over \$1.4 million in cash/CD investments. Since our last meeting we have re-invested in four CDs. He does see some bigger expenses coming soon.

The member database is coming to the end of its life as it was custom made and old school. He recommended new AMS (Association Management Software) software where the ASEA website and membership database talk to each other, making it more useful and more efficient. He attended a conference recently and got various innovative ideas for the association. The staff have been looking at demos of different software that he believes would be a great investment going forward. He thinks investing now will be a good move for the future 15-20 years.

The building next door has been having some AC issues and the company that was being paid to service the building was not doing what they were being paid to do. The roof needs to be replaced and there are also some mold issues. He estimates it would cost around \$120,000, which is a big expense.

John would like to cancel the board retreat in October. It would cost ASEA around \$20,000. He would like to use the money saved to purchase the AMS software. He let the board know that the Executive Committee did give approval to move forward with purchasing the new software. The board retreat was supposed to be about members working on pay plan issues. At this point, the Governor's office has not released anything for us to discuss and plan. **Motion made by Brock Baker to suspend/cancel the Board**

**Retreat in October and use the money to purchase the new software; second by Dorothy Henderson with the Motion Passed.**

*\*Member Report*

John advised that we are stuck at the current member numbers. He feels this is due to a lot of members being hired at an agency, joining ASEA during new hire orientation, and then leaving or transferring once they get through a training period and/or get certifications to better themselves. On the bright side, open enrollment is coming and ARSEBA will be going to all in October. For the first time in 10 years AG&FC will be getting enrollment booklets and ARDOT is also getting them as well. Holli Patrick asked if ARSEBA gets a new hire report from all the agencies. As far as John knows they do. He let everyone know that ARSEBA is approved and allowed to email all state employees and since ASEA is a part of ARSEBA we could add something to the bottom of the email regarding membership.

Retiree membership is on the rise.

Brock Baker suggested new advertising for new hires. Bob McQuade stated Facebook and Twitter are not the answer. Clayton Rogers wants to consider producing a membership video. It could be posted on our website and sent to different agencies' HR departments to be included in the new hire process. It could show what ASEA is about, what the association has done for members and how to join. Judy Beatty recommends that Holli Patrick form a committee and go from there. **Motion made by Judy Beatty for Holli Patrick to establish a membership committee; second by Brock Baker with the Motion Passed.**

**Old Business**

President Dona Bowry asked if there was anything to discuss in old business. Holli Patrick stated our next meeting was scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup>, which is a game day, LSU at Fayetteville. President Dona Bowry expressed that she does not think we should change our meeting dates due to football games. If a member would like to attend the game, they could submit an email to be excused. **Motion made by Jeff Jackson to keep the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting at 10:00am as previously set; second by Jennifer Siccardi with the Motion Passed.**

**New Business**

President Dona Bowry administered the Oath of Office to Jessica Zimmerman via Zoom; she was sworn in as new board member.

President Dona Bowry selected James Scott and Heinz Braun as her selections for the Executive Committee. The nominees for the board selections were Judy Beatty, Matthew Thomas, Janice Griffin, and Jerry Jones. Judy Betty and Jerry Jones were elected by board vote.

**Motion made by Bob McQuade to adjourn the meeting; second by Jeff Jackson with the Motion Passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:48am.