

MONTANA CORONERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

MAY 3, 2021

The Montana Coroners' Association Annual meeting was called to order by President Wynn Meehan at the Clarian Copper King Convention Center on 5-3-21 at 6:50 P.M.

Roll Call:

Roll call was taken and members from the following counties were present: Butte-Silver Bow, Cascade, Yellowstone, Missoula, Fergus, Carbon, Phillips, Hill, Ravalli, Custer, Lake, Roosevelt, Beaverhead, Chouteau, Valley, Toole, Musselshell, Blaine, Richland, Deer Lodge, Stillwater, Sheridan, Sanders, Glacier, Fallon, Sweetgrass, Carter, Broadwater, Meagher, Jefferson, Golden Valley and Petroleum.

Minutes:

Dick Brown made a motion to forego reading the minutes of the September 11, 2020 Annual Meeting. This motion was seconded and approved with all in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The checking account balance is \$35,663.99 and the estimated convention cost is \$12,000-\$13,500. The Morgan-Stanley account balance is \$40,845.32. There were 19 coroners and 56 deputy coroners registered to attend the conference. Dick Brown made a motion to approve the minutes and Andy LeBrun seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Scholarship:

The scholarship was for students in District 6. There were 5 applicants, 3 from the current district. Sadie Harbaugh, Trent's daughter, was chosen and the other applicant chosen was from Miles City; both are from District 6.

Election of Officers:

The Board position in District 4 expires in 2021. Steve Holton made a motion Sibley Jankoviak serve another term. Dick Brown made a motion the nominations be closed.

The officers are as follows:

Past President Wynn Meehan

President Andy LeBrun

Secretary-Treasurer Jace Dicken

District 1 Steve Holton (term expires 2024)

District 2 Dan Whitted (term expires 2022)

District 3 Dick Brown (term expires 2023)

District 4 Sibley Jankoviak (term expires 2027)

District 5 Jessie Billquist-Jette (term expires 2025)

District 6 Trenton Harbaough (term expires 2026).

Update Bylaws and Fee Increases:

Jace explained the bylaws are very outdated and have no provisions for electronic fund transfers, etc. He has copies of a proposed updated version and the old version for comparison. A motion was made to have the board review the proposal and make the final decision and put the revised bylaws on the website. This was seconded and approved with all in favor.

Jace proposed raising the dues from \$150 to \$200 for coroners and raising the deputy coroners from \$25 to \$35. This would generate approximately \$4,800, which would enable us to obtain high power speakers. Vern Burdick made a motion to increase the dues as proposed and Steve Holton seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

Legislative Update:

Jace reported we need a Standing Legislative Committee to keep an eye on legislative sessions regarding coroner matters. We now focus primarily in training, but not in legislature. With the pressure from George Floyd's death, the federal government will be putting pressure on the coroner system. There are going to be many changes in rules and regulations. John Fudenberg, IACME Executive Director, was present and concurred in what Jace reported. He stated he wants more members to join his organization, which is fighting to keep the government at bay. They are taking advantage of in-custody deaths and want to get rid of the coroner system. This year HB 313 slipped in without our notice. Jace made a motion to create a

Standing Legislative Committee with a 2 year term consisting of 6 members, 1 from each district, and they would report to the board. Tom Boyer seconded the motion, which unanimously passed.

Convention Site for 2022:

There was a discussion concerning the site with multiple suggestions. Bill Knox made a motion the board decide on the location and Nic Elsele seconded the motion which passed with all in favor. The board will check with Billings as its first option.

Other:

Dick Brown made a motion to pay the bills and Vern Burdick seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Jessie Bilquist-Jette made a motion the meeting be adjourned. Dan Whitted seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 P.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Farmer, Recording Secretary