

Council of Associations Meeting
May 19, 2006
Minutes

Attending: L. Dallis, Jane Schultz, T. Cimochoowski, L. Green, D. Haines, T. Gifford, G. Ogden, P. Forestiere, J. Blumer, R. Smith, B. Woodward, P. Donnelly, A. Fagan, G. Applebee, C. Fausold, G. Hecht, T. Della Rocco, H. Dillard, K. Scholl, K. Roush, S. Bossard, R. Stank, A. Hunt, E. Walldroff, M. Ledoux, R. Peterson

9:30 a.m. Convene

Minutes of the January 13, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted.

Introduction of new members.

Budget – not all expenses have been accounted for, but it appears there will be about a \$10,000 carryover.

Election of officers for 2005 – 2006 unanimously:

Pete Donnelly – president
Tom Cimochoowski - president-elect
Lydia Dallis – secretary

A committee of Pete Donnelly, Tom Cimochoowski and Lydia Dallis was appointed to examine the possibility of changing the By-laws to extend the term of officers to 2 years from 1 year. They will report their recommendation before the end of today's meeting.

A brief discussion followed as to ways to encourage regional meetings of CoA representatives and local board members. Suggestion made that CoA members and executive directors need to be proactive in calling meetings. Perhaps there is a need to use videoconferencing as well as provide lively, provocative agendas.

Glenn Applebee – Federal and State Funding Profile

Extension association income – 10.1%
Grants and contracts – 22%
Donor funds and endowment – 0.2%
Federal – 10.7% (\$12 ½ million – half of which is Smith-Lever. The other half is for specific projects.)
State (Colleges and County Law 224) – 28.3% (This includes \$27 million in fringe benefits and \$7 million for faculty salary in Human Ecology and Agriculture and Life Sciences.)
County – 28.6%
The Total amount is \$127 million.

Glenn has projected that federal funds will steadily diminish over time and thus far, it is borne out. Eventually federal money will be allocated based on national competition. The same can be said for state funds. There will be more earmarking for local associations and statewide competition for money.

Jim Vincent – CARET

CARET is a national volunteer organization which is essentially an advocate for 10% of the federal funds allocated for extension purposes. Mr. Vincent explained that the key to obtaining federal funds is developing ongoing relationships with key people and administrators. He further explained that getting our system (CCE) utilized is a big challenge. During the Q&A he advised CoA members to identify local Congressional staff members and develop relationships with them.

12:00 noon – Lunch

12:50 p.m. Reconvene

George Hecht – CL224 Campaign Review

1. Should have developed partnerships with other organizations such as the Farm Bureau and Social Service groups.
2. Start contacts with legislators earlier.
3. Visit more district offices.
4. Message needs more sizzle.

Charlie Kruzansky – teleconference

One reason for failure in the 2006 budget campaign was the new process by which small amounts of funding was added to the budget. Charlie explained that there was, however, unanimous appreciation for CCE and its activities. There is a need to start earlier next year and be more aware of the process. Finally, as he hoped, a separate budget line was added to the SUNY budget for land grant activities.

Tom Cimochofski suggested that CoA develop a clearinghouse of those legislators who are contacted and in what manner.

Glenn Applebee suggested that future campaigns drop full-funding of 224 which may not resonate with legislators. Instead we might say to them, give us dollars and we attack the same issues. The money will reach every state association and therefore, your district. Cornell can put together a program. The CoA can work on relationships. By fall both can come together for joint action. Suggestions as to topics for the program were: avian flu, obesity, energy, and invasive species.

Pete Donnelly – Public Issues Leadership Development (PILD) – report

Pete presented a Power Point slide show on how to lobby legislators effectively by way of his report on the PILD conference in Washington in April. George Hecht added his observations.

Thomas Della Rocco, George Hecht and Rhett Smith – NYYSAC spring conference report. It was a very helpful opportunity to network with county and state agency representatives and local legislators.

By-law changes:

Tom Cimoichowski recommended the following changes to the by-laws.

Article V, section 2 – change winter meeting to spring meeting

Article V, section 3 – change June 1 to May 31.

Tom Cimoichowski and Pete Donnelly did not want to change the term of the president to 2 years. They would prefer to have the president, past president and president-elect function as an executive committee to maintain continuity. However, Tom suggested that CoA members read the By-laws and email to him any recommendations for changes. He would act as the clearinghouse and present results at the Oct. meeting for action.

The CoA October meeting in Ithaca could be during CCE week which is tentatively Oct. 2-6. The CoA could meet Oct. 5-6. Alternatively, the meeting could be on Oct. 13. The October CoA meeting will be in Ithaca on Friday, October 13. An invitation will be extended to Tommy Bruce, Vice President for University Communications to attend this meeting.

The members thanked Lynn Green for a good, productive year as president.

3:30PM Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Lydia Dallis, Secretary