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**Midwest Area Regional Council**

**Midyear Meeting**

**Embassy Suites by HILTON East Peoria, Illinois**

**March 11, 2023**

The MARC board members along with Jamie Atchison and Maria Bingheim, 2023 Local Conference Co-Chairs and Judy Huntley, Registration Committee toured the hotel and conference center with Taylor Holmstrom, Sales Manager, Embassy Suites by HILTON, East Peoria, Illinois.

President Bonnie Templeton called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM and the Opening Ritual was recited.

Silent roll call: President, Bonnie Templeton, Vice President Jill Shull, Parliamentarian Heather Hoey, Treasurer Brittany Rosenmund, ESA Foundation Chair Alley Gary, Secretary Amanda Rowland, Hope for Heroes Chair Jill Richards, Chaplain Julie Whitaker, Ways & Means Chair Kathleen Grissom, Local Conference Co-Chair Jamie Atchison and Marian Bingheim and local conference registration committee member Judy Huntley were in attendance.

Local Conference Co-Chairs Jamie Atchison and Maria Bingheim presented the Conference budget as well as the registration form for the MARC Conference in October. October 13-14th 2023. Attached please find the local conference report with detailed items discussed, and also the registration form, program ad form, and the budget. Rhonda Rawlings is the conference treasurer/registration chair for the ESA MARC 2023 Conference. Jamie will also send a room requirement and A/V request form to President Bonnie and other MARC board members to review the room set-up and A/V needs, the deadline will be August 1, 2023, to submit those.

Vice President Jill Shull, share her theme and logo, *“On your MARC,”* it is still being developed, and is based on the MARC logo. Jill is working to fill her committees and noted that only one nomination form has been received to date, the submission deadline is June 15, 2023. Jill’s focus is on communication, and she’s plans to hold Zoom meetings with the executive board and MARC reps to keep the connection flowing.

Secretary Amanda Rowland motioned to dispense with the reading of the minutes as dispersed via email and Jill Shull, seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

President Bonnie Templeton shared the proposed Bylaws and Standing Rule changes with the board, she asked Parliamentarian Heather Hoey to review and prepare them to submit to the membership for review, have them posted to the MARC website, and in the MARC Program book so members will be ready to vote on them at the October annual conference. It was suggested that, if needed, to find a meeting space to hold an open forum on Friday, October 13, after the leadership and before the mixer for members with any concerns to discuss those in an open forum. Jamie Atchison will request from the hotel a room to meet and advise.

Treasurer Brittney Rosenmund provided the Treasurer’s report, and the proposed budget was discussed.

Ways & Means Chair Kathleen Grissom suggested a few different ideas for the Ways and Means projects. She will take the boards feedback to her committee and present the projects once decided upon.

It was also suggested we bring back the MARC Marketplace and provide tables around the meeting room for those interested; it was noted that the items would need to be moved to a secure location overnight, there might be room in the registration office, however, the local committee is not responsible for moving these items.

Hope for Heroes Chair Jill Richards reported that Anita Dixon, Gold Star Mother and Patti Latch, Founder and Director of America’s Gold star Families will be speaking on Saturday. Jill will be asking members to donate birthday cards and/or national chain gift cards for the children of the Gold Star families who have lost a parent.

ESA Foundation Chair Alley Gary reported $771 was raised at the 2022 conference per the minutes, however, the balance online showed $841 was donated per the Foundation report. She is unsure where the extra $70 came from, perhaps it was collected after the conference and not part of the official minutes.

For the ESA Foundation fundraiser at the 2023 MARC Conference, Alley Gary will lead the Heads and Tails game with membership as a fundraiser to support the MARC scholarships.

Chaplain Julie Whitaker is contacting each state to get information for the celebration of life. Every state will need to send Julie the names of departed members for the celebration of life procession.

President Bonnie Templeton shared the following correspondence:

From Pam Mitchell, Audit Chair with her suggestions to prepare for the audit. Pam would like to have copies sent to her quarterly of statements and transactions.

From Brenda Fields, Webmaster, requested everyone to check out the newly updated MARC website and advise any corrections or future ideas to keep the content up to date.

From Jennifer Sparkman, Communicator, please submit articles for the next reMARCs by

March 20, 2023.

Closing Ritual was recited, and the meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Amanda Rowland, Secretary

Approved by Bonnie Templeton, President