

MACM Legislative Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2014

Tenth Judicial District Office, Ramsey, MN 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



Members in attendance: Aaron Williamson. By phone: Beth Tisdell, Janet Marshall, LuAnn Blegen, Wayne Minske, George Lock, Wendy Van Duyne, and Monica Miller.

**Assign Minute Taker** – Monica Miller

**Approve August 2014 Minutes** – Monica made some small edits (non-substantive) before the meeting. Minutes approved with Monica’s changes.

**Notice from Mike Moriarity** – Mike joined the meeting briefly to note that the 10<sup>th</sup> District has proposed a “phased” retirement option through the legislative proposal process. The proposal would make phased retirement an option for MJB employees. (Aaron sent out an email in late August with the proposal attached.) This has been proposed in the past and, despite broad MACM support, it hasn’t been adopted by the Legislature. The proposal will be reviewed by the Legislative Advisory Workgroup. The final decision on whether to pursue this legislation will be made by the Judicial Council.

**Survey on Meeting Form/Location** –

**a. Mix of in-person and remote**

**b. Location results:**

33 respondents (19 Education, 8 Legislative, 10 Membership)

- St. Paul (MJC) – 62.5%
- Ramsey, 10<sup>th</sup> Dist. – 50%
- Chaska, Carver Co. – 29%
- W. St. Paul, Dakota. – 53%
- Hastings, 1<sup>st</sup> Dist. Offices. – 43%
- Stillwater, Washington Co. – 50%

Aaron discussed the results of the meeting location survey (results above), noting that eight people responded from the Legislative Outreach Committee. St. Paul is the location to which most people are willing to travel. Aaron noted that decisions will ultimately be up to the new committee officers, but those decisions will be based on current discussions.

There seemed to be consensus that there is value in meeting in-person some of the time, but meeting remotely is generally the most efficient. There seemed to be consensus that meeting in-person on a quarterly basis, with all other meetings done remotely, would be the best way to strike a balance between efficiency and the value of face-to-face contact.

## **Legislative Updates/Outreach**

### **a. Award At Conference**

Aaron asked whether presenting a legislative award at the MACM conference is something we want to do this year and continue to do on an annual basis. Janet did not recall legislative outreach being encouraged much this session, and did not get any information on legislative outreach. Aaron did get a report from Ken on legislative outreach efforts.

Janet suggested tying the Legislative Award to budget-session years. Aaron noted that the committee will be giving out an award for the food drive at the MACM conference, so that award could be in lieu of a Legislative Award. Wayne noted that it would be difficult to find criteria upon which to base a Legislative Award this year.

Janet noted that the committee has a dual focus on legislation and outreach, and there was a general discussion that awards could alternate annually between a Legislative Award (budget-session years) and an Outreach Award (non-budget-session years). There was general support for this idea.

**DECIDED:** This year the committee will award an Outreach Award for the food drive, and the committee will revisit the process and criteria for future Legislative and/or Outreach Awards.

### **b. New Legislator Outreach – election year**

Aaron noted that the committee previously sent letters to newly-elected legislators along with a MACM brochure. Janet noted that this year there will only be new House members. There was a general discussion about the benefits of sending congratulations/introduction letters to legislators and who should send the letters (i.e. MACM/districts/counties). There was largely a consensus that it would be ideal for MACM (through this committee) to send letters *and* for individual districts/counties to send letters to the legislators in their area. The committee would provide a template for districts/counties to use in reaching out to legislators, which could be modified to include local information.

Janet recommended sending any letters before the session starts – either November or December. There was discussion about the MACM brochure and when to send it. The brochure cannot be fully updated until around January, because all the legislative proposals and goals won't be known until they've been reviewed by all the necessary groups. There was support for including current MACM brochures with the letters, and updated brochures can be sent out when they are available.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Monica will draft a letter to be sent from the MACM Legislative Chair to legislators
2. Wayne will draft a template letter to be sent from local districts/counties to legislators
3. Wayne, Monica, and Aaron will review the current MACM brochure

## Statewide Food Drive

Aaron noted that the food drive is going really well so far. As of the meeting, about \$850 had been raised after sending just the initial email. (Aaron also noted that this is already double last year's conference donations.)

There was discussion on the following items:

a. *Can people bring canned goods?*

Yes. However, it will be trickier to determine the value of canned donations and how to factor that into the district standings. (Something we'll have to address if it comes up.) If people bring items to the conference, Aaron will arrange to have the food transported somewhere. As of right now, we haven't determined a way to count/value canned items that are donated.

b. *Methods to encourage donations*

There was consensus that we should send another email out, possibly highlighting what Second Harvest does and maybe including a testimonial. Beth noted that there is information about the food drive on the 2<sup>nd</sup> District SharePoint page, which shows up in the newsfeed. Other areas could do this as well.

Other suggested items to include in the email: a reminder that there will be an award for the district with the most donations per MACM member (which will be a certificate with nice frame); current standings; information on September being National Hunger Month.

c. *Changing Deadline Date*

There was discussion about whether to change the donation deadline so that results can be in before the MACM business meeting on the morning of Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. It was agreed that the MACM business meeting was the best time to announce the results, and the deadline should be changed to September 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Action Items:

1. Aaron and Beth will change the deadline to Sept. 24 on the websites.
2. Aaron will draft another email reminder possibly including:
  - a. More info about Second Harvest (possible testimonial)
  - b. Graph of current standings
  - c. Reminder that there is an award for district with most donations per MACM member
  - d. Note that September is National Hunger Month
3. Monica and Beth will review Aaron's draft email

Note: Someone had an issue being charged multiple times when trying to make a donation. Aaron thinks the issue is resolved; he hasn't heard of anyone else having issues.

### Current standings as of meeting:

#### Websites:

- First District – <http://www.2harvest.org/goto/firstdistrict>
- Second District – <http://www.2harvest.org/goto/seconddistrict>
- Third District – <http://www.2harvest.org/goto/thirddistrict>
- Fourth District – <http://www.2harvest.org/goto/fourthdistrict>
- Fifth District – <http://www.2harvest.org/goto/fifthdistrict>
- Sixth District – <http://www.2harvest.org/goto/sixthdistrict>
- Seventh/Eight Districts – <http://www.2harvest.org/goto/seventheighthdistrict>
- Ninth District – <http://www.2harvest.org/goto/ninthdistrict>
- Tenth District – <http://www.2harvest.org/goto/tenthdistrict>
- SCAO – <http://www.2harvest.org/goto/scao>



## Committee Workplan Review



2013-14 MACM  
Legislative Workplan.:

**Original (2013-2014):**



2014-15 MACM  
Legislative Workplan.:

**Revised (2014-2015):**

The committee went over the Workplan to review it and see if anything should be changed. Below is a summary of what was discussed/decided for each item.

### *Legislative Tasks:*

- **Membership to submit legislative proposals to Legislative Committee**
  - Janet noted that people seem to be aware of the process and how it works. The deadline was August 1, and she got 15 proposals, not including those from the 4<sup>th</sup> District.
  - There was a question about whether it was necessary to have proposals go through the Legislative Committee before going to State Court. LuAnn and Monica thought it was a good idea to have the Legislative Committee review proposals if there are large or broad changes.
  - Agreed that this should take place in July, and no longer include October. (Changed on new Workplan.)
- **Review Legislative proposals**
  - Sept./Oct.
- **Legislative Advisory Workgroup (LAW) meets to discuss proposed legislation. If approved, forwards to Judicial Council**
  - Meets in Oct.
- **Judicial Council reviews proposed legislation**
- **Internal Education on Legislative Process**
  - This learning process really spans from July to November of this year. It can be ongoing. It doesn't have to be restricted to the listed months.
    - The meetings so far have been going well. They were well received in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Districts and there are a few more meetings coming up. Aaron has given information to the 4<sup>th</sup> District EOD Manager.
- **Monitor New Legislation**
  - This happens during the legislative session (January to May). Ken Bergstrom provides updates on legislation as well as Janet Marshall.
- **Legislative Outreach**
  - This is often a year-long process. Working on the brochure and preparing for day/week at the capitol (during budget sessions) is an ongoing process.
- **Update Legislative Brochure**
  - This gets updated closer to session start time, because priorities can be identified then. This item will be done in the fall with the "Branch Outlook" and then finalized and resent again before session start. Workplan changed to reflect revisions in fall, and again in January.
  - Item added to Workplan: Send letters after elections. This should happen in November/December.

*Outreach Tasks:*

- **Law Day**
  - This tends to run February through May.
  - The theme this year is the 800 yr. anniversary of the Magna Carta.
- **Explore Volunteer/Charitable Opportunities**
  - There was a discussion about whether this should revolve around the MACM conference, or be limited to parts of the year, or be something that is open at all times.
  - It was suggested that we may have better participation if we do a charitable event once a year, and do more educational outreach year-round. It was also noted that money/donations are easiest to plan around MACM conference time, but that an event would be easier to do at other times, unless it was planned during an evening at the MACM conference.
  - This item was changed to all year, because there may be opportunities to do something good at various times during the year. This allows the committee to plan things as it seems appropriate. (Sometimes it may center around the MACM conference, but it doesn't have to.) (Changed to all year in Workplan.)
- **Educational Outreach**
  - Summer/Early fall.
- **Evaluate the possibility of sustaining a digest of relevant appellate opinions**
  - There was a question about whether this committee had been able to connect with State Court Legal. The hope is that they'll let us know about big, impactful decisions.
  - This item is on the Workplan because it fit with our strategic goals. The executive committee will see if it's something worth pursuing. It is a *very* big project to do something like this.

NOTE: This was Aaron's last meeting as Chair of Legislative and Outreach Committee. Aaron was new to the committee three years ago, and mentioned that he learned a lot through this process. Aaron thanked everyone for their participation, and will still remain on the committee.

THANK YOU, AARON!!

**Next Meeting – October 2, 2014 — Dakota County Service Center, West St. Paul, MN**