

Appendix B

ATHE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MEETING

Tuesday, February 25, 2014

Called to order by Henry Bial at 7:03 PM CST.

Attendance/Participation: Henry Bial, President; Bill Doan, Immediate Past President; Patricia Ybarra, President-Elect, Chair, Strategic Planning; Terry Brino-Dean, Secretary; Nina LeNoir, Treasurer; Sonja Kuflinec, VP for 2014 Conference; David Kaye, VP, Membership & Marketing; Nancy Erickson, Executive Director.

Purpose of the call:

To discuss possible communications to members regarding Arizona legislative proposal that would curb rights of people in the LGBTQ community. This impacts our summer 2014 conference set for Scottsdale, AZ.

The bill could get vetoed, but it is felt that we should follow up, either way.

Henry noted that there has not been anyone saying that they agree with the proposed legislation. Henry wants to decide on the best ways to continue the conversation with the members going forward. It's important as well not to alienate people.

Henry:

Assuming veto happens:

- Minority of people upset with ATHE for not saying they would boycott
- Back-to-back FL and AZ, how will ATHE make site selection for conference better align with mission and values of organization.
- Committee on Conferences – Chase will be working on this topic with his committee

What else should go out to members?

Bill suggested that someone who has a strong opinion re: boycotting the conference should be on the Comm. on Conferences. This could help ensure that there is a dissenting member represented. Make sure the committee has a public presence and provide an e-mail for input and communication.

MOTION: To approve the membership of the Committee on Conferences:

Chase Bringardner, Chair

Nina LeNoir, 2010 VP for Conference - LA

Mark Lococo, 2012 VP for Conference - DC

Josh Abrams, 2011 Co-VP for Conference - Chicago

Gwen Alker, 2011 Co-VP for Conference - Chicago

John Fletcher, 2007 Conf. Comm; 2014 Conference Comm.

Christin Essin, 2013 Conference Comm.

Patricia Herrera, 2014 Conference Comm.

Soyica Colbert, 2013 Conference Committee

Monica Stufft, 2013 Conference Committee

Moved by Bill Doan. Seconded by Patricia Ybarra.

Discussion. Suggestion to invite Tim Miller or another high profile member of TASC.

Approved unanimously.

Henry will charge the Conference Committee to draft and recommend a policy for how ATHE decides on conference locations.

Sonja suggests that we not use the Annual Membership meeting as an open forum discussion about policy, etc. Provide other options for input on issues.

Question: Do we need to consider the possibility of moving the conference and take the financial hit for canceling?

Sonja asked, what does that mean for SB1070 – why didn't we do anything about that? What's the impact of pulling out? It will be negative on ATHE financially; negative on activists that are already working on the ground because we wouldn't be there to support them. If we're trying to have an impact on AZ and legislation, then taking away the conference won't help – it sends the wrong message and is not politically effective.

Question: Does anyone want to make the case that ATHE should spend the money, take the Latino political hit, and move the conference?

No one responded.

The OC unanimously agrees that we should not pull the conference out of Arizona regardless of the governor's decision on a veto of the bill.

David Kaye asked how do we deal with major vendors re: discrimination? Nancy will work with Lionel regarding discrimination issues.

Patricia suggested that the membership would want to know that the OC and GC had serious conversations about a possible boycott.

Question: How should we present this to the membership?

Henry will begin to draft possible responses that will go to the membership, depending on whether or not there is a veto.

Patricia noted that it was heartening that the Fairmont (conference hotel) signed a letter against the law.

Henry suggested setting up a Forum on the website for members to share their opinions with other members. Sonja suggested that it is useful for the OC and the Committee on Conferences to have such conversations archived.

Henry suggests that we continue to leave out the financial considerations for now in how we present the issue. Nancy noted though that the issue of the money that ATHE would have to pay for cancelling is important for the Governing Council to know.

Sonja suggested that we look at the newsletter again for possible revisions related to this issue.

Henry will draft two responses depending on the veto and send them to the OC for approval. He'll work on revising the Conference FAQs to go in ATHENews after the Friday decision. Nancy suggested that Henry let the GC know what's happened on this call. Sonja would like to keep the Conf. Comm. informed.

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Bill Doan. Seconded by Nina LeNoir.
Approved unanimously.

Adjourned at 6:50 PM CST.