Membership Council Minutes

January 18th, 2023

Attendance: Amy Vail, Barbara Marczak, Frank Williams, Michelle Zdrodowski, Erika Ignace, Matt Parks, Rachel Zywiczynski, Carrie Cox, Maggie Vaulman

National Membership (Marczak/Vaulman): The Membership Summit is coming up in February. Portions will be virtual for those interested in attending via the web. MEDC meeting is the day before.

Membership Challenge (Vail/Williams): Both the Section and the Association met the goals in 2022 for the membership challenge. The challenge is being revamped for 2023 as we speak.

Member Engagement (Vail/Williams): Groundwork is set for a presentation during the One Water Partnership meeting coming up on March 23rd. Section staff are also planning a February 15th presentation for GLWA members to explain how to access benefits, where to find standards, etc.. A discussion was had regarding GLWA renewals. All GLWA members have a June 30th, 2023 expiration date. These will be dealt with separately on the back end of AWWA’s database so that participating members don’t have to do anything to renew. There may be a process where someone needs to confirm they are still active employees. The dropped member list that was sent out for reach-outs will be uploaded to a share file for further work. Cox will select GLWA member partners from the list to target with the sign-up link and promo code. Parks will select vendors with multiple employees and pursue a personal reach out to a valid contact at those vendors to figure out why they dropped (accident, no longer employed, etc.).

Diversity Committee (Garcia/Chappell): The next workshop is set for July in Grand Haven. Before that, planning is underway for a three-part web series.

YP Committee (Tryan): The committee is organizing the scavenger hunt and mixer at Joint Expo. Additionally, there will be a modified YP Roundtable at Joint Expo that will involve three segments: Industry Overview, Networking Round Robin, and Guided Tour of the Exhibit Hall. This is in conjunction with DEI and Youth Ed. In March the committee hopes to organize a Grand Rapids Griffins game with East/West Plant Tours following in April.

Industrial Recruitment (Cox): There is a flurry of activity in southeast Michigan. Several apprentice programs are approved and up and running. The programs include SCADA Technicians, Water Treatment Operations, and Wastewater Treatment Operations. WRC has a table at MiCareerQuest and the suggestion was made that MI-AWWA and utilities in general should consider having a table as well. The Association Technical & Educational Council has identified Industrial Recruitment as their top priority for the year. Cox will continue to explore partnership with MWEA, but it may be a dead end.

Youth Ed (Caron): Youth Ed has two water festivals with Grand Rapids this quarter and are partnering with DEI and YPs for Joint Expo.

Volunteer Coordinator (Ballard): New member coffee break is February 3rd, Parks will take the lead. February 21st is Volunteer Orientation, Vail will take the lead and Marczak will fill in if needed / take the lead on the next one. A call was made to sign up for volunteering at Joint Expo if possible. The new Section database is coming soon.

Next Meeting: February 15th, 2023