Washington State Society of Enrolled Agents

**Annual Meeting Minutes**

June 27, 2016

In attendance:

President Virginia Goldman, EA

Immediate Past President Ed Harris, EA

President-Elect Steve Nehen, EA

Vice President Don Ptolemy, EA

Treasurer Linda Newell, EA

Secretary Catherine (Kate) Grubb, EA

Director Dirk Rhynsburger, EA

Director Veronica Pohl, EA

Director Sandra Robb, EA

Office Administrator Michele Allen, EA

19 members at large

Call to Order

President Virginia Goldman called the meeting to order at 5:01PM

We dispensed with the Pledge of Allegiance since we could not find an American flag in the immediate vicinity.

Minutes

The minutes of the 2015 annual meeting were distributed to the membership in the meeting packet. Dick Schmidt made moved to accept the minutes as submitted. Susan Anderson seconded the motion. The membership approved the motion.

President’s Report

Virginia covered the highlights of her written report that was included in the meeting packet. The board met seven times last year to discuss business and coordinate events and also held some phone conferences. Virginia praised Kate Grubb, as chair of the Web Committee, and Michele Allen, our administrative assistant, for the work they did getting the new web site up. The board is working on reaching out to the public to let them know what an EA is. We were represented at the Working Together Symposium, the Renton Technical College Biz Fair and we sponsored a vendor table at the Washington State Tax Consultants Convention. Virginia stressed that it was important that the membership help by volunteering and providing feedback to the board.

Treasurer’s Report

Linda Newell discussed the P&L comparisons that were provided in the meeting packet. The 2015-2016 year did not include the June figures since the month is not over. Dues were low compared to our budget projections, but there is over $3000 to be added for the month of June and more in July for members registering in June. We spent $1000 on sending our office administrator to Leadership Academy, and there is still some money left in reserve in that account to carry over to next fiscal year. Dick Schmidt made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as presented and Carol Calhoon seconded that motion. The membership approved the motion.

Budget

Linda Newell and Kate Grubb drew up a budget which was approved at board level this morning to present to the membership. A member questioned the increase in projected dues over the actual from the previous year. Linda feels that it is not that great a difference due to the difficulty we have had getting our share from national, a situation that is improving, and that we might make those numbers through better advertising. Another member asked why projected seminar fees were so much higher than last years actual. Linda pointed out that some fees from last year are not reflected since Junes fees are not in P&L yet. Kate Grubb explained some of that was catering estimates, which are running high making our $/CPE ration seem quite high. A member from Newport said our fees were still cheaper than CPE she could get locally. Dick Schmidt moved that we accept the proposed budget. Carol Calhoon seconded the motion. The membership approved the motion.

Office Administrator

Michele Allen summarized parts of her written report which was issued with the meeting packet. She enjoyed taking calls from the membership and answering questions. The past year we had 233 members (down from 240 the previous year). NAEA is offering a free one year membership to non-members who attend the National meeting in Vegas, and this morning our board has agreed to offer the same for the state membership as part of a push to get members to join. NAEA started a new website EAtax.org to help taxpayers find an EA who is a member of our organization. Members can purchase a website upgrade which offers specials. Michele has sent out e-mails for job openings for EAs and has sent replacement certificates for members who required them from the IRS. Her main job is coordinate events like this convention. Registration and collecting fees has been simplified in the past year with the new website and Constant Contact. She pulled together a new Facebook page (since the old one belonged officially to Denis LeMaster). Members can friend the site and follow the discussions. They can find the link on our website.

APEX

Steve Nehen went to APEX where NAEA reported on new their website and the IRS commissioner talked for an hour. His recollection is that NAEA projects it was losing 75 members/month. They are working on providing the Educate America program designed to educate colleges that there are 2 training paths to tax preparation, CPA and EA.

NAEA PAC

Virginia Goldman explained that National has a full time lobbyist on staff who has helped to get laws passed on behalf of our designation and our donations to the PAC fund that person’s efforts.

Fly In

Virginia also talked about the Fly-In held in May where our membership talks to senators and representatives (or their staff) about our concerns. She said it was quite an eye-opener.

Educating America

Ed Harris said the program is designed to address the problem that few people know what we are. His committee will be speaking to colleges, who usually only consider the CPA track as the path to become a tax practitioner, explaining to them that an EA does not need the traditional 4 years of college. Another goal is getting EAs to join our organization and become involved. He and Sandra Robb have drawn up a list of contacts and would appreciate any volunteers willing to speak to them. They also plan to talk about EAs at career days. Barb suggested career days at community colleges and told how she helps sponsor a Pizza party at WSU for students interested in the tax preparation industry. Carol asked if there was a pizza party budget. There currently is not, but the board will no doubt discuss it in the future.

Website

Kate Grubb reported that she and Michele Allen are hoping to put together a photo contest to get more local pictures for the website. Keep an eye out in the future for an email announcement.

New Business

Virginia announced that Dick Schmidt, who has been our liaison with Renton Technical College Biz Fair for years, is stepping down and that we are looking for new volunteers. Jim McClaflin volunteered to help. Mahmoud Sadr also volunteered his help.

 Nominating Committee

Ed Harris, chair of the committee presented the slate of candidates for the portion of the board whose term expires at the end of this month:

President Elect (to finish out Trudy Moore’s term)—Stephen Nehen, EA

Vice President—Dirk Rhynsburger, EA

Treasurer—Sandra Robb, EA

Director—Susan Anderson, EA

Director--Vacant

Ed solicted nominations from the floor for any additional candidates, especially for the one directorship that still had a vacancy.

Sandra Robb nominated Jim McClaflin. Jim agreed to serve. Ed asked for unanimous acceptance of slate. The membership approved the slate.

Awards

Virginia presented award gifts to all current board members as a thank you for serving.

Kate Grubb moved to adjourn. Susan Anderson seconded. The annual meeting adjourned 6:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Grubb, EA

Secretary