

SCAAIDD
Annual Business Meeting
Crown Reef Resort Conference Center
October 12, 2007
8:30 AM

I. Call to Order – Jim Manning, Chair

II. Invocation – Sims Lynn

III. Adoption of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Jay Altman. Motion was seconded by Hester Wannamaker. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last annual business meeting on October 6, 2007 were presented by Renee Staggs. A motion was made by Grady Evans to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Terry Schilling. The motion was unanimously approved.

V. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was presented by Jason Tavenner. Motion to accept the report was made by Sherrill Holder and seconded by Rufus Britt, III. Motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Membership – Presented by Terry Schilling

Ms. Schilling reported that prior to the start of registration for the 2007 SCAAIDD Conference, there were 114 members, which is up from the 85 members at the same time last year. Nineteen new members have joined AAIDD with the conference registration. This brings total current membership to 129.

B. Education and Training – presented by Dr. Teresa Ricke-Kiely

During 2006 a survey of training needs was conducted. During 2007 identified needs of the state were prioritized and a request for proposals was sent to available trainers. Several proposals were received and reviewed. Because of costs, in-state trainers were preferred. Two proposals have been accepted (to date) for the 2008 training year and have been tentatively scheduled. Additional proposals will still be accepted for the 2008 training year.

Information regarding all training will be shared on the website and sent to member organizations. For scheduled trainings a \$5.00/\$10.00 charge will be collected for members/no-members respectively. Because of the size of this committee, a board member from each region will be responsible for set up and closing of the training.

C. Newsletter – presented by Jim Manning for Ron Lofts

The newsletter was distributed in August/September 2007. It was noted that a number of address changes needed to be made. This information was forwarded to the membership committee. The plan is to distribute a newsletter quarterly. The next newsletter is planned for November, following the annual conference.

Any members not receiving the newsletter should send corrected addresses to Renee Staggs, Secretary.

D. Historian/Website– presented by Hester Wannamaker

Most of the activity that occurred on behalf of the Historian/Website Committee centered on the complete revamp of the public website which moved from the scaamr.org domain to scaaidd.org in July 2007. The web-site has undergone an extensive redesign to bring it in line with AAIDD guidelines and to make it more readily accessible to users. A “Contact Us” page was also added to the site. Further new site features are under development including a monthly meeting section, online copies of the SCAAIDD quarterly newsletter, and an SCAAIDD officer archive.

During 2007 the SCAAIDD executive committee also agreed to the purchase of a digital camera for the organization to be used by the Historian and other committee members for the purpose of capturing and chronicling events on behalf of SCAAIDD throughout the years. Several scrapbooks from previous SCAAIDD conferences were available for review at this year’s conference.

E. Legislative – presented by Jim Manning for Bill Barfield

SCAAIDD was a cosponsor of the Disabilities Awareness Day in March at the statehouse. Together with providers, self-advocates, family members, and the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (SCDDSN), SCAAIDD members informed legislative members and staff and the Governor’s staff of the tremendous need for services for individuals with mental retardation who live in the state.

These efforts, along with others, resulted in a record budget increase for SCDDSN. The agency received \$25.3 million additional State dollars to maintain previous year services funded with one-time dollars totaling \$11.4 million and \$13.9 million for new services. Most of this increase will be used by SCDDSN as matching funds for additional Medicaid funding.

In addition, the legislature passed Ryan’s Law for Autism Insurance Equity which will require insurance policies provided by certain companies in the state to cover specialized therapy services for children with autism by July 2008.

F. Conference Committee – presented by Rufus Britt, III

This year's theme, *A Winning Spirit!*, is truly indicative of the commitment of our Conference Committee volunteers. The Crown Reef Resort, venue for this year's conference, provided conference attendees stellar services and reasonable room rates. Our conference slate included 23 concurrent sessions and 4 keynote/plenary sessions. Topics of concurrent presenters included, but were not limited to, strategies to empower direct support professionals, alternatives to traditional prevocational programs, supervisory training for service coordination supervisors, and tips to facilitate true quality outcomes among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our keynote/plenary sessions included lots of humor, as well as sound organizational principles that our attendees can incorporate in their respective agencies. We attracted 12 exhibitors, ranging from vendors of durable medical equipment to information technology services. Our entertainment included a reception with great music provided by the Men of Distinction. We also sponsored a "Scavenger Hunt" and "Sports Trivia Bowl" to provide attendees additional outlets to network. Our tally of attendees for this year's conference totals 304. We thank every attendee for their participation and hope our Conference surpasses their expectations.

G. Constitution / By-Laws – presented by Jim Manning for Dean Redd

The only action this year with regard to the constitution and by-laws was to change the name to AAIDD in all places to reflect the organization's name change. The constitution and by-laws are posted on the website.

H. Nominations and Elections Report – presented by Grady Evans

Nominations – 129 nomination s forms were sent to organization members. For the office of First Vice-Chair, two nominations were received: Sherrill Holder and Grady Evans. Mr. Holder accepted the nomination, while Mr. Evans declined the nomination to run for another office. Four nominations were received for the office(s) of Member at Large: Jay Altman, Rick Magner, Grady Evans, and Sherrill. Mr. Altman, Mr. Magner, and Mr. Evans accepted the nomination, while Mr. Holder declined the nomination to run for another office.

129 ballots were mailed to organization members. Of 23 votes cast, Mr. Holder received 23 voted for the office of First Vice-Chair. His election was confirmed by the committee. Mr. Altman received 22 votes. Mr. Magner received 21 votes, and Mr. Evans received 23 votes. There was one write in vote for Elaine Thena for Member at Large. The committee confirmed the election of Mr. Altman, Mr. Magner, and Mr. Evans.

Awards – The committee unanimously selected Mr. Nathan Harris as the Direct Support Professional of the Year. Mr. Harris has been with Charles Lea Center in Spartanburg for the previous five years. For four of those years he worked one-to-one with a man with autism resulting in significant improvements in the skills and quality of life of this young man. Mr. Harris was nominated by Jeff Ballenger.

The committee unanimously selected Ms. Connie Coleman as the Self-Advocate of the Year. Ms. Coleman is the Administrative Receptionist for the Newberry County Disabilities and Special Needs Board. She is a “Partners in Policy-Making” graduate, an active participant in the local self-advocacy group, and is currently seeking the nomination to serve as the chair of the Developmental Disabilities Council. Ms. Coleman was nominated by Cindy Farr.

VII. New Business

Rufus Britt, II recognized Jim Manning’s leadership and contributions to the success of SCAAIDD and thanked him on behalf of the organization and Executive Committee..

A motion to adjourn was made by Sherrill Holder and seconded by Rufus Britt, III. Motion passed unanimously.

Prepared by
Renee Staggs, Secretary