

**MASFAA Business Meeting Minutes  
November 5, 1999  
Holiday Inn  
Bozeman, Montana**

President Mike Richardson called fall business meeting to order at 10:55 a.m. at the Holiday Inn.

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the spring business meeting in Great Falls on April 7, 1999.

**Officer Reports**

President - Mike had nothing to report.

Vice President - Terri asked about the whereabouts of the \$500 check for winning the NASFAA training award. Sue said that she found it and brought it along. Terri said that she had a copy of the RMASFAA Early Awareness video and if anyone was interested in a copy to let her know and she'd have it copied.

President Elect - Brenda had nothing to report.

Secretary/Treasurer - Bonnie distributed copies of the Treasurer's report. She summarized the status of our accounts, indicating how much money had come so far in registrations and sponsorships for the conference. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report.

Past President - Arlene reported that she is still working on MASFAA history. She asked for input on what to keep and how, maybe this could be discussed by the board or at our next business meeting. It was suggested that everyone bring their "old" MASFAA stuff to the spring meeting. Arlene said she was putting together a list of how long each person has been a member of MASFAA. She asked all the members to stand who had been a member for 10 years or longer.

Associate Members - Keith had nothing to report.

Members at Large - Janet and Jeannie had nothing to report.

**Committee Reports**

Fall conference committee - Gail reported that at one time or another between the conference and decentralized training there were 49 attendees. She said that the Holiday Inn had been great to work with. Applause followed in agreement and for the great job the committee had done in hosting the conference and training.

Spring conference committee - Mike reported that the Copper King in Butte has been reserved for April 5 - 7, 2000 with reauthorization on April 4.

Web Site - Tim reported that he will do his best with the membership information, keeping it up-to-date in the three formats (institution, associate, and individual) is a bit of work. He will update the list to include years of membership in MASFAA. He will post the minutes on the web site so they don't have to be mailed and also through the list serve.

**RMASFAA 2003, Big Sky**

Keith reported on the site visit. The food was great. The logistics of getting people there will be the only problem. The site is great. We could maybe get a bus to take a side trip to Yellowstone. Any ideas should be sent to Gail or Keith. Jim Craig reported on his family reunion that was held there. Jim said that they did not experience great food and the rooms were dirty. The comment was made that we must stay on their case. The new hotel is not finished yet. Gail indicated that we still have the first right of refusal. We need

to get a contract written to have approved at the March 2000 RMASFAA Board meeting. The resort will be closing after our conference, the night of October 8th is the last night that anyone can stay there. With that in mind it's a bit scary to consider what if we or someone can't get out that night. The question was raised about the how fresh the food will be at this time. Sally mentioned that Fairmont can hold up to 500 people, maybe that should be given some thought. Sue mentioned that at RMASFAA there has been talk of avoiding remote sites, but Montana is different. If we have to avoid remote sites then we are left with Billings. Sue went on to say that if the food is bad we won't pay for it and the same for if the rooms are dirty. Sue asked about the shuttle plans, were we going to use charter buses again like we did from Missoula to Whitefish. There are only so many flights into Bozeman and some people will want to rent cars. Sally thought we should look at other options and that we shouldn't settle on Big Sky due to a lack of options. Mick said that the RMASFAA board knows about Big Sky, the conference has been held at other ski resorts, so they know what a resort is like. As early in October as this will be, should mean that the weather will be better. Discussion continued regarding the fact that Big Sky is more spectacular than Fairmont. to keep the pressure on, it might be nice to have an alternative. Fairmont is only 20 miles from Butte but its harder to get into than Bozeman. Even though Big Sky seems to be our preference should we investigate Fairmont further? At Big Sky there are many condo, which would be very reasonable for several people. We're not locked into staying at the hotel, maybe that is what was dirty.

### **Budget/Audit**

Bonnie reported that with our move to only one conference per year, the Board is going to meet in Missoula on November 22, 1999 to establish a new budget.

Support Staff Training - Terri asked what we wanted to about support staff training. She thought that with our switch to one meeting per year that possibly doing this training every other year might be sufficient. And with the DOE's new training coming to the Web, maybe more training could be done in our own offices. Brenda said she would check with Dawn to see if she wants to be involved.

Bylaws - Brenda reported that our last change was to add acknowledgment of former members and to offer them lifetime membership. In addition to the names already mentioned we've come up with Bill Lannan and Paul Fasting. But how far back shall we go, and would it be meaningful? Additional names were mentioned, Dorothy Kinsley, Larry Link and Don Mullan. Dorothy would certainly appreciate knowing what's happening in the association. It was suggested that the incoming member-at-large to the board head up this effort.

### **Nominations**

The committee had the following nominations; Terri Gruba for President Elect, Haven Gourneau for Vice President and Becky Roeder for the new member-at-large. Other nominations were requested, with none, it was moved and seconded to close the nominations. The proposed nominations were unanimously approved.

### **RMASFAA Reports**

Sue reported that her term of office was over. Mike complimented her on what a great job she has done. Sue thanked everyone for their support.

Keith reported on electronic initiatives. He encourage everyone to look at the RMASFAA web site and get on their listserv and to contact him if you don't know how. He went on to say that if you are a RMASFAA member you are automatically listed. You can go to that site for conference information. Soon our sponsors will be on that site as well.

Sally reported that the federal issues committee is defunct. In terms of training she asked for ideas for Road Rally or Decentralized. She mentioned a couple ideas, a presentation on positive thinking or attitude

or what to do if someone goes berserk in your office or brings in a gun. It was pointed out that some campuses have disaster plans but some campuses don't have campus police. Sally didn't want to let go of the idea due to the Columbine situation but maybe we could make information available.

Brenda and Jennifer had nothing to report.

Janet reported that her term was over. She wanted to thank everyone that submitted evaluation information. Mandy Mocossin will be taking over her responsibilities.

Tim reported that this year's summer institute techworld and neophyte training should be great.

### **NASFAA Reports**

Sue reported on the national finance committee and what an eye opening experience that has been. In 1999 NASFAA did not bring in enough money to cover expenses. Membership dues have not increased in 10 years, but now we'll probably see a major increase. In terms of looking for places to cut costs, the cost of training is a huge expense, one proposal is to require decentralized training, the elimination of paper products was another, but because not everyone has electronic access that's not totally possible. NASFAA did not get the training contract for 2000, it went to NCA. NASFAA is losing people from their office due to salary issues, three positions have been open for over a year. The question was asked if any thought had been given to putting the encyclopedia on the internet. It has been considered, but the issue of how to pay for that service and have access to it has not been determined. Sue encouraged members to fill out the volunteer form to get involved in a NASFAA committee, all expenses are paid. It is a great opportunity especially for past presidents to become involved at a higher level.

### **Old Business**

Brenda reported that the public service announcement that they had made last winter will be reproduced for distribution in early January. Last year it was late when they were mailed to radio stations across the state and only one person heard it aired. This year there won't be any production cost, just copying and mailing. We will e-mail everyone asking how many copies each school wants to distribute to the local stations. Hopefully by delivering them in person with a personal plea to play it often, they will be aired more.

Terri reported that she has a copy of "Dispelling the myths of Financial Aid" and will have it copied and a copy mailed to each school.

Dana reported for Danielle Suta her thank you for the opportunity to attend the Summer Institute last June. Danielle said that she learned a lot and that it was an exciting experience. Keith reported for Bernie Warwood. Bernie said that the training was excellent and that her resource network expanded 10 fold by going. Both hoped that the association continues to make the scholarships available.

### **New Business**

Brenda reported that the Board of Regents asked Richard Croft to look into student loan and credit card debt of Montana students. The question was asked as to what schools are currently doing to make students aware of debt issues, answers included, class presentations on debt management and freshman seminars. Educating students about debt management is the responsibility of the financial aid office, bookstore, and business offices at our campuses. A couple of suggestions were made, to require intermediate entrance/exit counseling at a particular loan level if it looks like the student will reach his/her loan limit before completing his/her degree or require annual exit counseling. It was also suggested that at the college level this is really too late, high school students need to have a finance class, but faculty never buy into the need. Compounding the problem are parents who strive to have their PLUS application denied. Ricki reported that this year she packaged PLUS

loans for dependent students who had small Pell eligibility. This generated a lot of phone calls which provided the opportunity to discuss with parents their responsibility to provide for their child's education. Jim voiced his opinion that dependent students should have additional borrowing eligibility with a parent as a co-signer. D.W. stated that the default rate on alternative loans is between 40 and 50%. Since these loans are directly with a bank and not connected to the Department of Education, these are the first loans that students and families default on. Maybe it would be better to eliminate the PLUS in exchange for parent co-signer on additional borrowing eligibility for dependent students. These loans could be deferred as well which would cost more but would be simpler and less confusing due to less options, an idea for the next reauthorization. Sue reported that the responses she received about having one conference rather than two each year were unanimously in favor of the change. By eliminating the fall conference, this would increase the opportunity to go to RMASFAA, and still allow for decentralized training. If so desired we could always call a special meeting. Brenda commented that if that is decided our bylaws need to be rewritten to address the timing of meetings/conferences and the election of officers. Mick made a motion to change to one annual meeting per year, it was seconded and approved. Brenda went on to say that with this in mind the board has scheduled the 2001 MASFAA meeting/conference for April 18 -20 in Helena, with the understanding that another location could be determined by request. Most recently the order of rotation for the conference has been Helena, Billings, Missoula, Great Falls, Bozeman and Butte. Keith reported that the associate members mentioned that greater sponsorships would likely with only one meeting per year. At the spring meeting we will need to set the 2002/2003 dates taking into consider Banner training and the start dates of the quarter system schools' spring quarter.

Mike presented the association's special service award for 1999 to Sue Weinreis for her significant contributions to MASFAA, RMASFAA, and NASFAA. Brenda presented Mike with a gift for his contributions as our president. Mike turned the invisible gavel over to Brenda.

#### **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

MASFAA - Spring conference - Butte, April 5-7, 2000 - with Department of Ed training on the 4th  
RMASFAA Summer Institute - Colorado College, June 4-9, 2000 NASFAA Annual Conference -  
Washington D.C. with Hill visits, July 9-12, 2000 RMASFAA - Rapid City, October 15-18

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Whitehouse, MASFAA Secretary/Treasurer

**Bonnie Whitehouse**  
**Director of Financial Aid**  
**Flathead Valley Community College**  
**777 Grandview Drive**  
**Kalispell, MT 59901**  
**bwhiteho@fvcc.cc.mt.us**  
**406-756-3843 fax 406-756-3965**