

**Minutes of Meeting
October 27, 2018
Austin FEC**

The regular meeting of the REF Board of Directors was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by REF President Richard Fincher.

Present were the following directors: Andrew Strongin, Sheila Mayberry, Sharon Henderson Ellis, Phil LaPorte, Susan Stewart, Jeanne Vonhof, George Fleischli and Alan Symonette.

Catherine Harris, former REF President, also attended.

Absent were Mariann Schick, Charles Fischbach, John Alfaro, Jim Dworkin, Chris Albertyn and Ed Pereles.

President Fincher began the meeting with a welcome to new board members of Andrew Strongin, Sharon Henderson Ellis and John Alfano (absent). President Fincher also reported the resignation of Chris Albertyn, effective immediately, to pursue international ADR.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the last regularly scheduled meeting of the Board in Vancouver, B.C. The motion carried.

Secretary-Treasurer Walt de Treux reported on the 2018 donations to date, outstanding funding obligations (arbitrationinfo.com and Wayne State video project) and the REF audit.

President Fincher also provided an update regarding the REF's 501 (c) 3 status with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, State of Michigan. We paid our annual fee.

Director Alan Symonette provided a review of an application for funding from the Employment Committee of the NAA to provide a half-day Wage and Hour Training to members and attendees at the upcoming annual meeting in Philadelphia. A motion was made and seconded to approve the application subject to clarification of the following issues: 1) Will admission fees collected from attendees be considered an offset against covered expenses as referenced in the proposal; 2) Will the AAA approve this training as an alternate way to satisfy the continuing education requirement for membership on the AAA's Commercial/Employment Panel; 3) should the proposed attendance fee of \$50 be increased and 4) should there be an enrollment preference for NAA members and, if so, should there be a cutoff date for NAA member enrollment.

NAA Member Dan Nielsen made a presentation to the directors regarding his suggestion that the REF work with him on creating a Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP would solicit applications for REF funding to study the impact of the Janus decision on public sector awards and on the body of work traditionally performed by Academy members. A motion was made and seconded to authorize a committee of directors (I believe Andrew Strongin volunteered but then said he works mainly in federal and private sectors and that another director, possibly Sheila Mayberry, then agreed to join him) to work with Dan towards the creation and distribution of an RFP. The motion carried.

Chair of the Finance Committee George Fleischli reported on the status of REF investments and requested that the Board approve a change in policy to allow more frequent rebalancing of the REF portfolio as between stocks (60%) and bonds (40%). A motion was made and seconded to allow more frequent rebalancing as frequently as on a quarterly basis. The motion carried.

Director Andrew Strongin reported on the ongoing efforts of the Silent Auction Committee to prepare for the next Silent Auction event in Philadelphia. These efforts include publicity, compliance with legal requirements, coordination with the Philadelphia Program Committee and collection of donated items.

President Fincher reported on the status of active grants, the continuing initiative to update the REF tab of the Academy website, and the activities of the Nominations Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to recognize former REF President Chris Knowlton with a lifetime achievement award for her outstanding service to the REF. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to appoint Sharon Henderson Ellis as the Vice President for Donations and Communications for a one-year term. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the funding of plane fare and hotel, as well as a \$500 honorarium, for Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey who will be the Distinguished Speaker at the next annual meeting in Philadelphia. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned with the understanding that the remaining agenda items items would be addressed in follow-up e-mails or a telephonic conference at the discretion of President Fincher.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. Motion was carried.

Minutes taken by Catherine Harris.