

2024 meeting kickoff – 2:03 pm

On the call:

Jon Funfar, George Geyer, Alice Lawson, Ben Faubion, Patti Belle, Jim Demon, Jon Baker
Edgar Rieber, Mark Ingham, Jeff Lueders, Chris Jaramillo, Mike Connor, Ben Skudlarek.

Items one: agenda – changes

- VP report changes
- Chris Jaramillo – changes to conference section update
- Recognize our new VP Mike Connor
- Nominating is Jeff Lueders
- Alice – Board elections – need to make it official – where should we put it. (next)
- Motion made by Mike C and seconded by Chris J: votes 11 / 0 opposed

Secretary Report (Alice in leu) all were elected unanimously 51% response rate = valid response rate.

- Table the current board in the minutes and mov that the board is accepted as changed.
- Alice moved to accept the validated Election Votes (Patti Belle second): votes 11 / 0 opposed (motion passed. Welcome to all new members as well as returning members.

The 2024 Board Election process was validated with 51% of voting members casting ballots.

WATO Board Position	2023 Board Members
President	Jon Funfar, City of Pasco
Vice-President	Mike Connor, City of Kirkland
Board Secretary	Megan Hutton, Pierce County
Treasurer	Alice Lawson, City of Seattle
Regional Rep: District 1 (North & Puget)	Ben Skudlarek, City of Bellingham
Regional Rep: District 2 (King)	Patti Belle, City of Kent
Regional Rep: District 3 (Puget & Coast)	George Geyer, Kitsap County
Regional Rep: District 4 (Southwest)	Jim Demmon, City of Vancouver
Regional Rep: District 5 (Rainier Valley)	Jon Baker, Pierce County
Regional Rep: District 6 (Central)	Ben Faubion, City of Ellensburg
Regional Rep: District 7 (Northeast)	Jessica Fisher, City of Spokane
Regional Rep: District 8 (Tri-Cities)	Mark Ingham, City of Richland
Regional Rep: District 9 (At-Large)	Edgar Riebe, Seattle Public Schools
Past-President	Jeff Lueders, City of Tacoma
NATO Representative (non-voting)	Chris Jaramillo, King County

- Motion to approve the minutes from our November 2023 Meeting made Jim Demmond & Seconded by Alice Lawson:

Treasurer's report:

- Looking back at Dec and end of the year, ending balance was \$19,492.55.
- End of the year numbers listed 22 agencies and 73 members.
- Reviewed Treasurer's Report by section along with prior year references.

Committee reports:

Conference Committee Chris J & Alice L):

- Chris Jaramillo:
 - Red Lion & Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick
 - October 23 thru 25 dates were proposed.
 - Additional Rooms for vendors are available.
 - Emails are out but not confirmed.
 - October 16 thru the 18 (a week earlier possible alternate dates – checking with vendors.
 - Springhill location for awards and dinner
- Alice Lawson:
 - Alice, Meghan, and Chris met a few weeks earlier to get the program together.
 - A conference planning guide
- Questions:
 - Jeff Lueders – What are the costs? (Chris) \$4,000 for the center at this point (subject to changes)
- Discussion:
 - on vendors ensured for some time
 - We have more rooms, so we need to gather more vendors.
 - While we get the committees working together, Chris needs to nail down the dates.
 - Discussion about the use AWC possibly on the track side with the Broadband subcommittee. What additional content may be possible.

Legislative / Policy / Legal (Jon & Alice L):

- HR3557 comments – the American broadband act
- Broadband office at the state level is still being set up and positions being sought.
- Digital Equity is still moving forward (funding via taxation and donations being sought).
- Director is still being defined and selected for the newer people on the staff.
- 504 to 640 million in unfunded mandates across the nation.
- Bill to redefine the definition of a rural county from 100 to 50 persons per square mile.
- WATOA sent out a letter opposing HR 2557 to all congressional delegate of WA last month. We have received on response - Susan Delvanie responded from Carnation/Duval area.

Production (Edgar R & Jim D):

- Jim gather links from LNI at the State for content. Jim will share via email (Sent during discussion).

Communications:

- None

Membership (Alice L & Chris J):

- Renewals are rolling in already.
- As of today – 15 agencies renewed and 2 pending.
- 29 confirmed members and 12 pending members.
- Chris wants to adjust the format how Membership gets reported.

Nominating: (Chris Jaramillo):

-

Brian Wilson Scholarship (George Geyer):

- What are the amounts approved this year? George will request that in February
- What are the due dates? George will request that in February
- NATOA Conference: 25 thru 28 August, Charlston, SC
- WATOA Conference: 16 thru 18 October, Kennewick, WA

By Laws (Meghan Hutton):

- 3 Bylaws were reviewed early in January 2024 with 2 moving forward and one being discussed with the submitter for modifications.
- Table until next month due to losing members
- Will discuss with Chris

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Good of the Order:

Next Meeting – February 28th

3:08 pm meeting was adjourned.