



Colorado • Montana • North Dakota • South Dakota • Utah • Wyoming

**ASPIRE Board Meeting  
Adams Mark, Denver  
October 3-4, 2007  
Submitted by Brian Pilcher**

**Approved October 31, 2007 via e-mail**

The following participated:

**OFFICERS**

Michael Wade- President  
Dan Benge- President-Elect  
Amy Verlanic- Past-President  
Krisan Crow- Treasurer  
Brian Pilcher- Secretary

**STATE PRESIDENTS**

Dawn Eckhardt- North Dakota  
Bonnie Straw- Wyoming  
Mica Slaven-Lamothe- Montana  
Donna Rigby- Utah  
Ryan Ross- Colorado

**GUESTS**

**ABSENT**

John Shafer- Treasurer-Elect  
Aaron Poor Bear- South Dakota

Incorporated Rigby, Wade, Verlanic, Eckhardt remarks,

1 **Pre-meeting conference call to attorney Paul Schierer on 501(c)(3) and Kostecki letter at 2pm.** Board  
2 conference call with Paul Schierer at 2pm.  
3

4 To maintain group exemption, must file annually more than 90 days before end of year. Confirmed that it  
5 means before October 1. Year of establishment does not have this time constraint. First filing can be  
6 retroactive for a period of time, maybe 2 years. What is liability for officers in states under group  
7 structure? WY state law has exemption for officers of non-profits who operate in good faith. Must  
8 demonstrate good governance practices and guidelines must be in place. If not, then others in organization  
9 could be liable. Mentioned that IRS extends Sarbanes-Oxley standards in their enforcement to non-profits  
10 but not really applicable by current law. Move of incorporation to ND: Can we use name of ASPIRE, Inc  
11 in WY even if incorporated under another name? OK unless other corporation in WY owning the name  
12 complains, then would have to stop using it. Recommends incorporating in ND under name we will use,  
13 i.e., ASPIRE, Inc. He plans to get the move to ND done this month. Approach is to 1) get incorporated in  
14 ND first, then 2) get group exemption.  
15

16 Paul Schierer was asked to send Allyn Kostecki a letter requesting Allyn provide ASPIRE, Inc. with his  
17 AMEX tracking document documenting over \$5,000 in credit card receipts charged for the period of time  
18 leading up to his resignation between March & May, 2007. Said he could do that and it's a good idea  
19 because it would document good governance whether he responds or not. Krisan Crow should send him  
20 the details for the letter.  
21

22 Meeting called to order by Michael Wade at 4:25pm October 3, 2007:  
23

24 Parliamentarian appointed— Dawn Eckhardt.  
25  
26 Review and approval of previous minutes.  
27  
28 **Motion #1.** Dawn Eckhardt moved and Donna Rigby seconded to approve the minutes of the September  
29 29-30 board meeting as amended. Passed unanimously.  
30 State presidents should report number of TRIO employees in their state to Membership Chair Dawn  
31 Eckhardt by December.  
32 Krisan Crow needs contact information for state treasurers as soon as possible.  
33 State presidents need to submit a payment request form for payment for the banquet tables.  
34 Dawn Eckhardt needs to check the CVENT site for accuracy of the link to the regional web site.  
35 Brian Pilcher should send the board contact information to board members.  
36  
37 **Motion #2.** Amy Verlanic moved and Dan Benge seconded to recess until 8:30a.m. October 4, 2007.  
38 Meeting recessed at 5:10pm.  
39  
40 Meeting resumed by Michael Wade at 8:46a.m, October 4, 2007.  
41  
42 All present from yesterday except the following excused absences:  
43 Amy Verlanic had to catch a flight, Ryan Ross is delayed in traffic, and Aaron Poor Bear had to leave yesterday.  
44  
45 Some discussion on e-business protocol. Brian Pilcher will draft and distribute language to the board.  
46  
47 Note: Ryan Ross arrived at 9:00a.m.  
48  
49 **Committee chair assignments.** Michael Wade distributed a list and discussed new and unconfirmed  
50 committee chair assignments. Noticed that the archivist committee is not listed in the operating guidelines.  
51 Michael Wade suggested that Student Leadership Congress be planned with the same level of effort  
52 involved in a conference. Discussed cost considerations for location. Ryan Ross suggested that region and  
53 states alternate years in offering congresses. Michael Wade suggested that he and Donna Rigby discuss  
54 potential chairs for the 2008 SLC. Discussed ASPIRE regional conference rotation and the cost in some  
55 locations. Brian Pilcher suggested we develop a conference rotation proposal for the general membership  
56 meeting that would address cost of location by hosting in only the cheaper states. Dan Benge suggested that  
57 locations of conference within states could be adjusted to control costs. Discussed LDI and whether it was  
58 engaging and whether it was effective in encouraging leadership. It is good with newcomers but not sure of  
59 impact on developing future leadership. Should engage potential leaders in state and regional committees  
60 to prepare them. Michael Wade should ask COE for ideas for engaging alumni. Maybe best for states to  
61 manage it. Dan Benge's programs have FaceBook and MySpace sites to encourage contact with alumni.  
62 Michael Wade asked presidents to poll projects in their states on how they develop alumni lists. Donna  
63 Rigby suggested the importance of enlisting professionals who are TRIO alumni and Mica Slaven-Lamothe  
64 further suggested that the tendency to focus on recent program graduates was misplaced because of their  
65 mobility and lack of establishment in the professional community took an inordinate amount of tracking  
66 work.  
67  
68 State presidents should confirm regional Corporate Development committee representatives for their states.  
69  
70 **Schedule of January board meeting in Spearfish.** Finance committee 2pm-7pm January 11<sup>th</sup>, full board  
71 meeting 9am, Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> until noon on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Airport is in Rapid City 45min. away.  
72  
73 **Conference site selection for Wyoming, 2010.** Last weekend in September or early October are typical.  
74 Asked Bonnie Straw to work with state in selecting a site and providing potential venues in WY for 2010 at  
75 the Board meeting in Jan 2008.  
76  
77 **Motion #3.** Motion to adjourn by Ryan Ross and second by Dan Benge. Passed unanimously.  
78  
79 Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.