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4 Colorado ● Montana ● North Dakota ● South Dakota ● Utah ● Wyoming
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6 **ASPIRE General Business Meeting**
7 **October 5, 2008**
8 **Submitted by: Donna Rigby**
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12 Donna Rigby, acting as Secretary

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14 Meeting called to order by Mike Wade: 3:10 p.m.

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16 Kathy Felker was appointed Parliamentarian. It was established that a quorum of more
17 than 50 were present.

18
19 **Approval of minutes from October 2007**

20 Mike asked for discussion of the minutes. Bob Luyendk mentioned the spelling of
21 acclimation was wrong and moved to correct it. Mike entertained a motion to accept the
22 minutes as amended.

23 **Diane Gardner, Utah, moved to accept the minutes as amended. Dugan Coburn**
24 **seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

25
26 **Treasurer's Report**

27 John Shafer presented the Treasurer's Report and allowed those present time to read the
28 report. He noted that there had been many monetary challenges over the past. Mike asked
29 if there were any questions about the shortfall and why it happened. Sandra Lanier asked
30 how such a large shortfall could have occurred.

31 Mike answered the question. He explained that in Denver, at the last ASPIRE
32 Conference, there was language buried in the contract that was not noticed when contract
33 was signed. An attrition clause kicked in and ASPIRE was held accountable for those
34 funds. The ASPIRE Board, at that time, began negotiations with the Adams Mark Hotel
35 to have them reduce the amount owed. He said that in the President's Report, the
36 membership will notice how the Executive Board overcame that shortfall.

37 Neal Reuter asked if the amount had been paid. Mike said that it was paid and he turned
38 the time back to John, who completed his report. Andrea Reeve publicly commended the
39 board and John for overcoming the financial challenges of the past year. Krisan Crow
40 also publicly acknowledged the board's efforts and commended its members for their
41 hard work.

42
43 **President's Report**

44 Mike reported on the events that transpired after the last conference regarding the
45 monetary situation. He reminded the membership that he sent a letter to membership in
46 the January issue of ASPIRATIONS, explaining the financial situation and outlining a

47 plan for overcoming it. Through cutting back on Board travel by using teleconferencing,
48 moving accounting duties, where possible, to the treasurer, cutting per diem and sharing
49 rooms at the COE Board meeting, requiring a semi-annual rather than annual audit, and
50 trying to bring money into the region, the shortfall had been overcome. Mike commended
51 the membership for helping the board to accomplish this. He also urged the ASPIRE
52 membership to become comfortable developing partnerships and making sure that money
53 comes into ASPIRE from other sources than just the ASPIRE membership. We need to
54 find people to help who believe in what we do, so that we are not solely relying on
55 ourselves financially.

56 Another accomplishment of the past year, with much pro bono help from attorney Paul
57 Schierer, was the moving of the incorporation of ASPIRE INC. from Wyoming to North
58 Dakota and the filing of the 501(c)(3) group exemption for region, giving every state in
59 the region federal tax exemption under the umbrella of ASPIRE.

60 This year, the board has tried to do increased development income and membership
61 revenue. He commended Carol Gritts for her efforts in the development area. He told
62 how each state had set goals to increase donations and memberships, and there was a
63 significant increase in Project Memberships. Also the region received almost \$9,000 in
64 personal donations.

65 Mike recognized Oscar Felix, Andrea Reeve, and Lourdes Zavala, along with Amy
66 Verlanic and Dan Benge, who worked to write a new training grant for ASPIRE.
67 Unfortunately, this grant was not funded. He called for questions; there were none.

68

69 **Development**

70 Carol Gritts thanked all who participated in COE Fair Share and the ASPIRE Fair share
71 fund drives. ASPIRE achieved 124% of COE Fair Share, which was second highest for
72 all ten regions. Carol told the membership they should commend themselves. She urged
73 the membership to continue its hard work.

74 Carol outlined some of the challenges for upcoming year. She urged members to
75 contribute personally and set of goal of \$20,000+ for regional development income. She
76 encouraged those who haven't thought about giving to do so. The amount can be small or
77 large; the point is for individuals to demonstrate a commitment to ASPIRE. She reminded
78 those present that Project memberships are \$100/project and are grant allowable. Contact
79 Carol by e-mail and she will send the contribution form as an attachment. Personal
80 donation forms are on the tables at this meeting. She again reminded the membership that
81 it is crucial for the members to support the work that is so important to each of us.

82

83 **Membership Report**

84 Dawn Eckhardt stated that during 2007-08 membership year, ASPIRE had 191 members.
85 Though the total number of memberships decreased slightly, the number of professional
86 memberships increased. The Board's decision to allow current members who have
87 experienced a lapse of membership to catch those years up resulted in 6 members
88 purchasing 9 years.

89 Dawn also discussed the second membership piece recommended by board, which was to
90 increase the types of memberships. This requires a by-law change. The voting was to
91 have taken place at state spring meetings; however, that voting came up 27 people short

92 of the number needed to pass. Dawn outlined the membership types and indicated that
93 ballots were on the tables for members to vote at this meeting.

94

95 **State Reports**

96 Mike referred the membership to the annual report for state report information.

97

98 **New Business**

99

100 ***Elections***

101 SECRETARY: Mike presented the name of Brandon McLean, Upward Bound
102 Coordinator at Montana Tech, for ASPIRE Secretary. He called for other
103 nominations from the floor. There being none, **Rob Rust moved to elect**
104 **Brandon McClain by acclamation. Julie Walker seconded the motion. The**
105 **motion passed.**

106

107 PRESIDENT ELECT. Mike presented the name of Ryan Ross, Colorado State
108 President, for ASPIRE President-elect. He called for nominations from the floor.
109 There being none, **Sandra Lanier moved to elect Ryan Ross President-elect by**
110 **acclamation. Oscar Felix seconded the motion and the motion passed.**

111

112 Mike announced that the candidate's forum would still be held as scheduled.

113

114 ***Unfinished business***

115 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY CHANGES

116 Lindsay Beddes had a question about the difference between emeritus and
117 professional membership. Dawn explained that emeritus members could not serve
118 in office.

119 **She announced that it comes moved and seconded from Membership**
120 **Committee to accept membership changes as outlined on the ballot. The**
121 **motion passed unanimously.**

122

123 BYLAWS CHANGES

124 Amy Verlanic explained the by-laws changes were necessitated by the move of
125 incorporation as well as by the membership categories changes. She explained
126 that four references to Wyoming would be changed to North Dakota and that
127 language in the membership categories would be changed to match the
128 membership's approval of these new categories.

129 **She announced that it comes moved and seconded from the Operating**
130 **Guidelines committee to accept the bylaws changes as outlined. The question**
131 **was called and the motion passed unanimously.**

132

133 **Adjournment**

134 **Kay Modin moved to adjourn the meeting. Amy Verlanic seconded the motion.**

135 **Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.**

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