

Executive Committee Meeting

January 6, 2012

Teleconference

Welcome and Roll Call

President Russ Brubaker called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm central time.

Committee Members Present

President Russ Brubaker, Wayne Harper, Richard Dobson, Diane Hardt, Deb Peters, Mike Eschelbach, and Luke Kenley

Update on Federal legislation

Mr. Charlie Sewell reported considerable discussion and progress. He said the next steps in the House is to move to mark-up. He said they have been talking to Chairman Lamar Smith's office and his council and they are looking for more republican co-sponsors. He said in the Senate they are looking to get a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee. He said Congress will return before the State of the Union speech and they will be shopping for legislative vehicles and trying to coordinate activities with RILA and the National Retail Federation. He reported that bipartisan effort is certainly underway. President Brubaker stated that he and Senator Deb Peters are working on some of the legislative support needed from around the country. In response to a question from Senator Peters about movement from the Republican Governors Association, Mr. Sewell said the most important was the comments by former Mississippi Governor Haley Barber who works very closely with a new lobbyist, a long time political friend of his with RILA. Mr. Sewell reported that Haley weighing in with other republican governors would definitely help.

Discussion of and approval of the 2012 spring meeting schedule/locations

President Brubaker said they have looked at 5-6 cities with a hotel rate near the Federal per diem with flight connections and it was narrowed down to 2-selections, Minneapolis and Louisville. He said Chicago, Atlanta, and Nashville were eliminated based on either cost or unavailability of suitable meeting venues. He said the plan is to schedule the spring meeting the week of May 21 or the week prior. President Brubaker asked that the Executive Committee give him consent to choose the city for the meeting venue. He also asked for permission to have SST pick-up a portion of the hotel cost for state delegates who cannot attend a meeting at a hotel that is above the per diem rate. Mr. Scott Peterson said the most likely approach was to increase the registration fee a small amount. Senator Peters moved that President Brubaker be given the authority to choose the location and the motion passed. President Brubaker said that he and Scott Peterson will work on finalizing the location early next week.

President Brubaker said he was going to schedule executive committee meetings in 6-week intervals. He said the organization's finances need to be more closely watched as well as the interplay between the lobbying efforts. He said there have been some very big issues that SLAC will be looking at, so we need fairly regular guidance back to SLAC on how we want them to proceed, and especially on sourcing of services and credits. He said he would cancel meeting if there is nothing of importance to discuss.

Approval of committee member appointments

President Brubaker reported that for CRIC he wanted to reappoint Mr. Myles Vosberg as chair, Senator Peters serve as Vice Chair, and Tony Mastin, Craig Johnson, Tom Atchley, Tim Jennrich and Richard Cram as the other committee members. He said he wanted to appoint Bruce Johnson as chair of the Issues Resolution Committee and to reappoint Tom Gillaspie, Robert Thompson and Michael Eschelbach, and to appoint new member, Larry Mulnar of Indiana. President Brubaker said he wanted to appoint Christi Comanita and Ellen Thompson as chair and vice chair of the State and Local Advisory Council. He said he wanted to reappoint Bruce Christensen as chair of the Audit Committee. Ms. Diane Hardt moved the approval of all the appointments. That motion was approved unanimously on a roll call vote. President Brubaker reported that he also asked Senator Kenley to continue to chair the federal legislation committee.

Report of the Finance Committee

Mr. Richard Dobson gave a report of the Finance Committee's first quarter report. He said expenditures were in line with the budget at this point in the year. He said to follow-up with President Brubaker's comment about the future, he said for this FY 2012 we are budgeted to have an ending balance of \$385,000, but that FY 2013 would have an unacceptable balance of only \$140,000. He said the Finance Committee supports President Brubaker's comment about that we should continue to monitor as there are a lot of variables and there will be additional expenses. He said the basic major expenses are salaries and benefits for 3 ½ full time employees, travel, office and contractual expenses, but the biggest portion was for Federal lobbyists.

Report of the State and Local Advisory Council - Survey on 2012 Policy Issues

Mr. Peterson reported that a solid majority agreed that all of the issues on the survey need to be addressed. He said there was some disagreement about digital products. He said the additional issues suggested were the CSP Contract, implementation of Federal legislation, elimination of a work group of communication, and local Government Advisory Committee. President Brubaker added that the purpose of the survey was to identify the issues that SLAC needed to be working on and approximately 18 states responded.

Ms. Deborah Bierbaum reported that the Business Advisory Council survey results were similar to the state results. She said digital products was the highest priority issue with the BAC.

President Brubaker said that State of Washington was working on what needed to be done should the Federal legislation pass. He reported that they would prepare a draft communications plan for Washington and for all the other aspects involved for implementation. Diane Hardt suggested the Governing Board start thinking about a communication committee for the organization as well. President Brubaker stated that we should work on the organizational plan and bring in the Executive Committee and others to be thinking about what we would need to do.

President Brubaker adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm central.