**Minutes of American Taxation Association Trustee and Officer Meeting**

**Renaissance Phoenix Downtown**

**Saturday, February 18, 2017**

**Present:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Raquel | Alexander |  | LeAnn | Luna |
| Ben | Ayers |  | Sean | McGuire |
| John | Barrick |  | Brigitte | Muehlmann |
| Mike | Calegari |  | Nancy | Nichols |
| Michael | Donohoe |  | Sonja | Rego | |
| Ryan | Huston |  | Roby | Sawyers |
| Lynn | Jones |  | Blaise | Sonnier |
| Ken | Klassen |  | David | Weber |
|  |  |  |  |  |

President LeAnn Luna called the meeting to order at 7:45 AM. After a brief welcome and a review of the announcements in the agenda, she asked if there were any revisions or modifications to the minutes of the August 7, 2016 Trustee and Officer meeting attached to the agenda. Hearing none, the minutes were approved (with no edits or revisions) as distributed.

The President thanked Raquel Alexander for planning a successful meeting and program. Lynn Jones reported on the progress on planning for next year’s meeting. Lynn asked for help in identifying panelists and speakers for next year’s meeting.

Officer and committee reports were next on the agenda. Prior to the meeting, the agenda for the meeting and full reports of each committee were emailed to the trustees and officers.

JATA – Midyear Update:

The full Midyear Editor Report for the Journal of the American Taxation Association was attached to the agenda for the meeting. In addition, Ken Klassen reported that the transition to the new editor, Connie Weaver, has begun and noted that the number of submissions to the journal this year have substantially increased.

JLTR – Midyear Update:

Roby Sawyers distributed a copy of his written JLTR Midyear Editor report at the meeting. It is attached to these minutes. Dr. Sawyers observed that the number of submissions to JLTR and the JLTR conference were lower than in prior years. For this year’s midyear meeting, there were seven papers submitted for the journal and the conference and two papers for the conference only. Efforts continue to reach out to authors in practitioner journals to encourage them to submit their work to JLTR. In addition, outreach continues to clinical faculty in academia to publish in JLTR. Dr. Sawyers also mentioned doing a special issue on tax reform or another current topic of interest.

ATA Dissertation Award Committee – Midyear Update:

The report of the ATA / PwC Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee was attached to the agenda for the meeting. There were no questions or comments about the report.

ATA Doctoral Consortium Committee – Midyear Update:

The report of the KPMG/ATA Consortium Committee was attached to the agenda for the meeting. There were no questions or comments about the report.

ATA Teaching and Curriculum Conference – Midyear Update:

The report of the ATA Teaching and Curriculum Committee was attached to the agenda for the meeting. There were no questions or comments about the report.

Publications Committee:

The report of the Publications Committee was attached to the agenda for the meeting. There were no questions or comments about the report. The President mentioned that the publications handbook has been revised and will be sent out for review by the trustees and officers in the coming months.

Treasurer’s Report:

The Treasurer’s Report was attached to the agenda. The Treasurer, Brigitte Muehlmann, discussed the ongoing issue about financial information or reports not being available due to a problem with AAA’s accounting system. The only information available for the meeting was membership and subscription numbers. AAA hopes to have their accounting system up and running by mid-March, 2017. Nancy Nichols, ATA’s AAA Council representative, will voice our concern about the lack of availability of financial data and accuracy of data at the next council meeting.

Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee submitted five fundraising proposals for consideration by the ATA Board of Trustees. The proposals were forwarded by email to the members of the Board of Trustees prior to the meeting and are attached to the minutes. John Barrick explained and led the discussion on the different proposals.

Proposal 1 is to offer the same level of sponsorships to book publishers at the midyear meeting that we offer to our CPA firm sponsors. Sponsorships begin at the $3,000 level and go up to $10,000 compared to the $1,000 paid by exhibitors for the midyear meeting. There are additional benefits provided to sponsors as explained on Appendix A attached to the proposals. There was a motion by John Barrick, with a second by Nancy Nichols, to approve Proposal 1. After discussion, the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Proposal 2 is to expand the potential sponsor base of the organization by reaching out to tax related exhibitors at the AAA annual meeting that do not attend ATA. These would include CPA review course, data analytic, and tax research database vendors. A motion was made by John Barrick, and seconded by Brigitte Muehlmann, to approve Proposal 2. After discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Proposal 3 is to seek sponsors of the breakfast, lunch, breaks and reception at the ATA midyear meeting. John Barrick made a motion, which Lynn Jones seconded, to approve Proposal 3. After discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Proposal 4 is to approach local companies where the midyear meeting is being held to be a sponsor of the meeting or be an exhibitor. After discussion of this proposal, the consensus was not to move forward with this proposal.

Proposal 5 relates to the AmazonSmile program. This program allows an Amazon customer to designate an organization that will receive a contribution from Amazon equal to .5% of the cost of qualifying purchases by a customer. The first step would be for ATA to become a qualifying organization for the program. Once this step is complete, an email would be sent to members informing them about the program and asking them to consider selecting ATA as their designated organization for the AmazonSmile program. John Barrick moved, with a second by Nancy Nichols, that Proposal 5 be approved. After discussion, the motion passed by a unanimous vote.

AACSB Faculty Standards

Raquel Alexander called to the Board’s attention the 2013 AACSB revised standards regarding attorneys with a graduate degree in accounting or tax being able to qualify as a scholarly academic. A brief discussion followed.

Website content:

President Luna raised the question regarding the type of conferences and journals that is appropriate to post on the ATA website. She recently received a request from a university to post information on the website regarding a research conference that the university was hosting and an online tax journal that it publishes. After reviewing the publications handbook, which specifies the type of materials that can be posted on the ATA website, she approved posting the information about the conference and journal. It was discussed that it may be necessary in the future to reevaluate the guidelines for posting information about events, conference and journals on the website.

Other business:

Lynn Jones raised a question posed to her by an ATA member at a teaching school about being able to add a session to the midyear meeting for practitioner based manuscripts. Raquel Alexander indicated that this would be a topic to take up with the committee organizing the upcoming midyear meeting.

A few months ago, President Luna appointed an ad hoc committee consisting of Ben Ayers and John Robinson to review the ATA bylaws and suggest any needed revisions. Having completed its assignment, the committee has proposed the seven changes to the bylaws set forth in the Proposed Changes to ATA Bylaws attached to these minutes. Ben Ayers made a motion, which was seconded by John Barrick, that the seven changes designated as Motion 1 through 7 in the Proposed Changes to ATA Bylaws (attached) be recommended for adoption at the next meeting of the members. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously. President Luna also suggested that the revised goals of the ATA adopted several years ago replace the Purposes and Objectives of the Organization in Article II of the Bylaws. Although a vote was not taken on this suggestion, the consensus was to include that change in the suggested revisions at the next meeting of the membership.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 AM.

Blaise M. Sonnier, Secretary

American Taxation Association

February 18, 2017