



Board of Directors Minutes
Tuesday, November 8, 2022
Zoom Meeting

In attendance: Cynthia Fournier, Karen Holden, Emo Chynoweth, Tim Eldridge, Maryann Belanger, Marc Raposo, Howard Anderson, Tom Sutton, Joanne Waterhouse, Sandy Rowe, Justin Maltese, Winfried Feneberg **Absent:** Laurie Young, Ryan Renaud Smith, Su Brobst and Terry Crotty. **Staff:** Matt Gatzke, Mike Dennehy

Call to order: Cynthia called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Comment was made that updates from Trooper Hildreth and Rebecca will be part of the newsletter. Other updates will be reported during rules and safety.

Acceptance of Secretary's Report of October 11 Meeting: Marc made correction to what was said about air brakes and skills testing. Should be pre-trip and road. Cynthia questioned what was meant by fire drill reports. It should read evacuation drills. Marc moved and Tim seconded. No discussion. Motion was approved.

Review of the October 30 Financial Report: Matt and Emo had not had a chance to talk prior. Emo asked if anyone had any questions. Cynthia asked if we add an instructor course, do we amend or change the budget? Not necessary to amend budget if we add a program midstream. Website charges were discussed as being quarterly. Marc asked about dues since we are off by nearly \$5K. First Student still outstanding which will reduce that amount significantly once received. It is expected to arrive shortly. One or two items on AR report to be removed. Have received more income from events in the interim since the report was run. Matt reviewed a few smaller fleets that may or may not renew. Motion was made and seconded and the motion was approved.

In-Service Training Committee: Had a great in-service on Nov. 5 including Trooper Hildreth and Rebecca and two counselors from the Rochester School District on bullying and suicide awareness training. Marc was asked to report on items from meeting with Greg and Rebecca. Strobe lights: There is an RSA on strobes does not say when they are to be used. There is a reference in Saf-C but that line was stricken from the current rules. If you have them you can use them (or not). Company policy would apply. It was in the rules that if you have them you should use them from home-to-school but again, it was removed about ten years ago. Rebecca reminded that if you are rostering someone from out of state that you include a copy of that out of state license with the roster or you will hold things up. People need to use their formal name that is on their license, no nicknames or shortened forms of their legal name. The presenters from Rochester did a fantastic job and really focused on bus drivers. Offered tips for the drivers own well being as well. Matt has put the presentation on the NHSTA website in two places. The two are willing to offer an annual update starting in October fo 2023. Great attendance around 130. Have had some concerns about people not staying for the entire program. Marc made note of anyone who left, but it was not a problem. Make fleet manager responsible for attendance of all who came with them. Especially important since subjects like these are required trainings.

Legislative Committee: Karen did not have an update. She asked if anyone knew of anything she was unaware of. Howard offered to assist her.

Rules and Safety Committee: Sandy recapped Oct. 25 meeting with Trooper Greg and Rebecca. Began discussion of the renewal of the Saf-C rules. The use of the 8-light systems and when and where they are to be used (or not) was the biggest discussion. There have been concerns in-school zones. Parents and teachers driving through lights. Officers also waving people by them. Do we leave the use up to each school district or do we make it a mandate and report violations. No one rule will work for all. To take the liability off the driver, Greg suggested that the use of the loading lights at school itself that it be up to the district to decide if to use then in the school zone. Move the liability to the districts. Current rules also only mention 8-light systems yet many have 4-light systems. Every district would have to document its policy and provide it to the transportation department or the contractor. Concern is that drivers would still end up being liable. All must be in writing that the district is requesting that lights not be used in school loading zones. Presently, we are increasing our liability as districts are now telling us not to use the lights. Next meeting is scheduled for

11/15/22 at DMV. Joanne asked about the ten-day waiting period for failed permit and road tests. That will be addressed by the director. It's a real problem with the shortage. Need a quicker way to re-test. Makes no sense since the permit is a Federal issue. Over 40% of those who make appointments for road tests don't show up which clogs the system.

Awards Banquet Committee: Sandy reported that we had wonderful turnout for the event. She thanked all for their help in setting things up. Slight delays in serving the entrees. Great dinner though. Addressed that there were discussions and noise going while presentations were going on. One district in particular was a problem and that Matt will address this with their business manager. Looking ahead Matt recommended that some form of cue be used next time such a situation happens. Stop the presentation and make them aware. Biggest concern was when the director was speaking. It is our job to alert their leadership as it will benefit them in the longer term. Our 50th year driver, Tom Burke, was not able to be there. We have asked for a photo of him with the plaque. Laurette Cillo was also going to do the same. Matt asked for name of person who took photos from STA. Sandy re-iterated that the noise situation did not define the event which was wonderful. Matt commented that it was school districts that did not pay to have people attend the dinner. They've gotten out of the habit of including attendance in their budgets.

Public Relations Committee: Tim commented he spoke with Matt about the fact that the committee has not been able to get any real footing to take action. Need to consider how to position ourselves when the news media calls about an incident. Who is going to speak? Also, coming up talking points and a statement. PR committee along with Membership Strategy Committee should work together on member recruitment issues. Focus on what we need to do. Some of some committee members so combining a possible idea. Due to travel time, Zoom remains the easiest way to try to meet. Need to keep the conversation going about dues structure. Mike reminded that we need to be more proactive and make people available for opportunities to participate in media events. Mike also commented that the Facebook page has good activity and we should continue to use that. Marc commented that the most difficult thing in dealing with the press is that the line of questioning is often hard to track and they also ask us with inadequate notice. Marc asked about the listing of committees which Matt has (and will) send out again to the board. Matt closed that the biggest sticking point is how to reconfigure dues with equity for both large and small providers. Need to add Justin Maltese.

Old Business: No old business was heard.

New Business: Next DMV director meeting is 12/15/22. 10-11:30 a.m. Five representative from NHSTA (Cynthia, Marc, Karen, Mike and Howard) Please send any questions or items you have for the DMV director, please send them to Cynthia.

Other Business: None heard.

Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 11:20 a.m.