

Call to Order

The mid-year board meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA) was held at the Chesapeake Biological Lab in Solomons, MD. Those in attendance: Amy Sauls, Adam Frederick, Kathy Siegfried, Jackie Takacs, Bill Simpkins, Mellie Lewis, Shaun Guidice, and Ruth Schneider.

President, Amy Sauls, welcomed those in attendance.

Old Business

None

President's Report – Amy Sauls

- As NMEA Representative from MAMEA, Amy will be attending NSTA 2006 in Baltimore.
- Amy participated in the NMEA chapter representative conference call for Susan. NMEA conferences are planned for 2007 in Maine, 2008 in Georgia.
- Grant Policy. Amy reviewed the NMEA grants policy. Amy suggests that we review and consider adopting the NMEA policies. This is old business to be voted on.
- Free memberships. The president should be able to grant 18 for 2006. Amy checking with Susan about free memberships for NOSB coaches. VIMS already paid for VA coaches.

Secretary's Report – Kathy Siegfried **MAMEA Secretary Report April 2006**

Submitted by Kathy Siegfried 4/20/06

Non-renewals from 2005: 96

Active Members: 203

New: 124

Renewals: 71

Lifetime: 8

State-by-State Breakdown:

5 Delaware

73 Maryland

3 DC

50 Virginia

65 North Carolina

1 Pennsylvania

2 South Carolina

1 Georgia

1 Tennessee

1 Arkansas

1 Other (incomplete entry)

Membership Dues Breakdown:

- 57 Conference
- 72 Mini-Conferences
- 60 Check
- 14 Other (Lifetime, gift, etc.)

Reminders from the Secretary:

- Please follow the database format when submitting entries.
 - I can create an Excel or Access forms for you to use when doing registrations for mini-conferences, etc. This can be emailed to me once completed.
- Spelling counts, please proofread.
- Please complete your entries. A first name with no other information creates problems in making sure our members receive their benefits.

Treasurer's Report – Jackie Takacs

Jackie never received any electronic files from past treasurer Karen Fuss. Jackie went to bank for bank statements and tax forms. Communication with Karen is requested to make sure that the transition is smooth. Taxes are due May 15. Should be easy since we didn't host NMEA.

As of 4/21/06 Checking Balance of \$3,590.82

As of 3/31/06 Money Market Balance of \$8,360.59

As of 3/8/06 CD Available Balance \$25,960.43

Following some of the Karen's paper files Jackie is putting together the accounting files. Jackie had a question regarding separating membership money from registrations for conference. Answer: Yes for new and renewing members. Jackie plans to keep the budget same as 2006 unless grants go up. Amy suggested we look at postage costs. Jackie will have budget ready for the Board in the next few weeks.

Amy asked if we can activate the Finance Committee with the Treasurer in case of loss of the Treasurer. Amy expressed her concern with President-Elect stepping in as Treasurer since so many expenses for conference. Need to check with Vicki on Standing Rules about making that a formal relationship. The President-elect is on the Finance Committee, but they should not act as Treasurer. Mike Bates and Tami Lunsford were suggested as possible additions to the Finance Comm. Amy is approaching Lewie Lawrence, Finance Committee Chair. If Lewie is interested in being more involved then he can approach Mike and/or Tammy. Jackie will approach new members if others need to be invited.

Lewie later responded with the fact that a non-voting member of the board should not have the authority to sign for checks. This matter needs to be investigated further and resolved.

Past President's Report – Susan Haynes

Amy Sauls reported for Susan Haynes that NMEA did membership survey to try to figure out why people are members of the regional chapters but not the national chapters. MAMEA had one of the highest response rate.

President Elect's Report/ Fall 06 Conference – Adam Frederick

On a tip, Adam contacted North Bay Environmental Education Center in Northeast, MD. Located in quaint town but just 8 miles off I-95. Adam and Jackie went up there in October to check out the facility. The facility has many places for presentations like labs, docks, open spaces, etc. Dorms available with 6 bunk beds in a room with one bath or double occupancy rooms for 36 people. Staying on site is built into facility fee. Meals, registration, etc should be about \$85. Crystal Inn is located up the road for others with block of rooms for \$80/night. Adam is also looking to get rooms at the Holiday Inn Express to provide for overflow. Adam is encouraging people to stay at the conference. Adam showed the Board a video tour www.northbayadventure.com. New facility with many amenities available like ropes course, zip-lines, canoeing, indoor climbing wall, etc. The conference will be held the last weekend in September (30th). October 1 is the Sunday. They are not expensive. We were able to negotiate a good price. Field trips on Sunday morning. (Bay grasses snorkel trip, boat, canoe, birding, kayak, adventure rope course and zip line, dock activities with freshwater ecology, biofilms, etc.)

Fees: Housing facility, linen, worker fee,

Reception Friday night, dinner Friday night, Saturday B,L, and Dinner. Bringing in dinner

Estimated costs: Friday-Sunday \$185 staying on-site; \$115 off-site. All meals and field trips included.

The end of the year Board meeting will be held Friday at 3:00. Shaun brought up the concern for teachers to take the day. Thursday night would result in taking 2 days, so went with Friday.

The conference theme is “Culturing a Community of Science.”

Speaker from Center of Marine Biotechnology (COMB) who is entertaining and has great information on bacteria, etc. He also has great pictures on electron microscope. Also have an Anthropologist who has studied how people respond to things like phisteria. Also a teacher who has worked with these scientists who can speak about lessons they have created from this research. (One on Friday other on Saturday or both on Saturday.)

Friday's conference opening will be with folks from North Bay, Amy and Adam. Saturday will have auction and band. Sunday morning will have new board meeting and field trips.

Need Help:

-Barry to make form and help with concurrent sessions.

-Registration form. All comes to CBL. Jackie's assistant helping.

-Auction – Needs 5-6 big things. Ruth volunteered to help. Send ideas to Ruth. Friday night silent auction. Saturday night live and bag auction. Live auction info on the website ahead of time to let people know. Amy challenging each state rep to get one item for the auction.

-Sponsorship- Adam doing rounds with Sea Grant offices.

-Give Aways – Amy coordinating. Send suggestions to Amy.

-Awards – Committee did a great job of handling everything last year. John Chubb did it.

Need to back up deadline since the conference is earlier.

-Registration due by September 15, limited to 125. To bring list from Amy.

-New people – Look at current list of members and contact members and ask them to invite new people personally. Teacher workshops can pass out flyer.

-Teacher certification hours- Need to advertise that credit can be earned by teachers.

State Reports

DC – Bill Simpkins: Bill Simpkins is still planning on having some type of get together at The National Aquarium in Washington before the fall conference. Possible dates are June 10 or August 19.

Bill Simpkins reported that he will be joining the DC Environmental Education Council and will be promoting MAMEA in that organization. He knows there are other members of DCEEC who do aquatic education, so he is hopeful to get more people involved in the DC MAMEA group.

Bill will be participating in 2 Environmental Education workshops in DC and will be promoting MAMEA at those events. The DCEEC has a workshop on June 20, and Project Wet's "Make A Splash" program is on September 22.

Bill cannot act as Elections Chair at the regional conference since he will be up for re-election.

MD – Mellie Lewis: Our Mid-Atlantic Marine Educators Mini-Conference and Teacher Sleepover was held at the National Aquarium in Baltimore March 10 -11, 2006. This exciting conference offered behind the scenes tours, presentations given by Aquarium Education Staff, tours of the galleries and observing a night dive by Aquarium volunteer divers in the Atlantic Coral Reef Exhibit, fifty new marine educators joined MAMEA. Participants want to meet more often. Mellie looking to do more activities.

NC – Ruth Schneider: Ruth is new. Amy and Teri have given her advice to nag people. Mini-conference at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. Aquarium was a draw as having the place all to themselves. Most people were coastal, but some came from as far away as Goldsboro. 30 people, 22 new. Some income on top of membership. The North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores opening May 19. There will be a week of workshops at Fort Fisher and Roanoke Island. Huge invasive species workshop. Amy working on Estuary Live.

VA – Jane Brown: Jane is on baby watch. VA mini conference did not go due to low sign up.

DE – Shaun Guidice: Shaun has been the DE rep for some time and not active. Everything in DE is geared toward state certifications. There is no DE representative notebook. Coast Day is the same day as conference this year. No marine stuff in curriculum except for HSC in 8th grade. Shaun will be gone this summer, but wants to help promote fall conference. Shaun will contact Tami Lunsford about getting people in the northern area of the state. Shaun has been working with Ramsar Wetlands Site in Japan to do some sort of sister site or students working with students in Japan and US. Adam suggested looking at a model Sea Grant did with students in Sweden, and Amy suggested Estuary Live.

Committee Reports:

Masthead Report : Submitted by Barry Fox, Editor

Following the Spring 2005 Board recommendations, the Masthead format was revised and the length of the publication was reduced to eight pages. Themes ideas were requested from the membership but none were received. As a result, the Editor selected a theme for each issue and developed the content related to the selected theme.

Mailings numbered approximately 220 per issue. Printing and mailing costs were approximately \$1.00 per copy. The local printer I have used recently closed his shop. I used another printer for the Winter 2006 issue who was slightly higher but better quality.

State representatives have done a good job in submitting information and articles. Maryland and North Carolina submit the bulk of the material. I would like to see more representation from the other states.

Issue Summary

Issue	Theme	Comments
Spring 2005	Blue Crab	None received
Summer 2005	Call for Presentations Aquarium Keeping	None received
Fall 2005	Conference Registration	None received
Winter 2006	Invasive species, global warming articles	None received
Spring 2006 pending	Water Quality Information on the WEB	

There is no response from membership concerning the Masthead – no articles, no pictures. I don't know how to get members to contribute other than pay them. I guess if there was a problem with it we would hear about it. So no news is good news.

The theme for the Spring 2006 issue will be *Water Quality Information on the WEB*. Your suggestions and thoughts are welcome.

Board suggests calendar of topics so give more time for articles. Amy and Kathy looking at publications dates and making list.

Finance: Since we hadn't heard from Lewie Laurence, Finance Committee Chair, Amy following up on contacting him, and inviting new members. Lewie later responded with his willingness to hand over the chair position if the president desires. He believes that change is a good thing, especially if there is great interest in active participation. He does not see what adding additional people to a committee will accomplish since there has not been any directives to do anything other than status quo.

Action Plan – Adam Frederick: Most important thing is recruiting new members. Great time to get people is by having them come to the conference. Poor participation in grants is also a concern. Adam is looking to invite high-level education folks in the state to the conference to have them encourage others to join them. We may consider offering something at the conference that talks about ocean literacy, grants, opportunities like NOAA Teacher at Sea, etc. Adam will ask for someone else once he is President.

Mentoring – Jane Brown: Jane Brown and John Chanania had board members hand out treats to new members at the Annual Conference. Conference attendees also received lists of new members from their state. The effort seemed to be well received. Ruth wants to help with the committee.

Grants – Barry Fox: Currently 2, \$500 grants. Adam asked to increase grant to \$1,000. This may open for more applications and possibly more money. This increase needs to be voted on at the fall meeting. Hesitation for this increase was expressed since the budget would be in the red. Also need to look at what we can fund. Need to check into cash flow for the website grant. Scholarship is 10% of auction proceeds. Need to change deadline to an earlier date than September 1. Need input from people on the grants committee.

Amy suggested that we had an email and phone conference around August 31st to make sure we have updated meeting notes with a meeting to follow in one week to make sure that tie up any loose ends.

Amy also suggested suggestions for board and committee chair involvement from members, new folks.

Awards – John Chubb: John Chubb has been doing a great job with this committee. He has been working with NMEA to get our winners as NMEA nominees. Adam asked about posting past winners on the website.

Amy suggested producing an annual report. Ruth suggested putting it in the Masthead. Kathy volunteered to produce the report to send to Barry to be incorporated into the newsletter.

Nominations – Bill Simpkins: Bill Simpkins will not be able to be on the committee since he will be up for nomination. Mellie Lewis will take this on. Kathy Siegfried will send out email call for nominations at the end of the summer.

Standing Rules and Archives: No new news. Both Teri Hathaway and Vicki Clark are hoping to step back, but we are not willing to let them go.

Have notes with comments back by May 15.

Amy Sauls adjourned the meeting.