

**ACR Florida Chapter**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**November 6, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President, Ken Starr, at 12:01 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Ken Starr	Tom Mack
Karen Andres	Carline Emanuel
Fernaundra Ferguson	Chris Shulman
Elinor Robin	Carol Tresca
Len Helfand	

**Approval of Previous Minutes:**

Chris Shulman made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous Board Meeting and the Annual Chapter Meeting held August 25, 2006. The motion was seconded by Tom Mack. Chris will forward a copy of the minutes to Tom so that they can be posted on the Chapter website.

**Old Business:**

**Treasurer's Report**

Karen Andres reported that the balance in the checking account is \$857.69.

**Membership Renewal Notices**

Discussion ensued about the membership renewals, and as to whether or not a second membership notice should be sent to those members who have not yet sent in their renewal. A motion was made by Karen that we send out another membership mailing with a membership application. The motion was seconded by Len Helfand. Motion passed. (It was decided later that Chris will include a copy of the renewal application with the next newsletter so that a separate mailing will not be required.)

**Speaker's Bureau**

Ken gave an update on what he and Tom have been trying to accomplish. They are developing an outline for anyone who is interested in speaking on behalf of ACR to local groups, giving a 45-minute talk on various forms on conflict resolution, such as arbitration, mediation, etc. The next step will be for the committee to publicize and solicit members throughout the state who are interested in volunteering. A list will be posted on our website with the names of the speakers.

Ken congratulated Fernaundra Ferguson on her election to the ACR Board. Fernaundra mentioned that the ACR Board has a committee that has formulated a "canned" statement

on ACR – what it is – and this is used nationally. Fernaundra suggested that Ken contact Leah Wang of the Public Relations Committee, and ask her to send him this information.

Tom said that the committee could use some other areas of expertise so that someone who is not fluent in that area would be able to speak about it and mention the name of such experts. Tom asked each person attending the meeting to submit a paragraph on their respective areas of expertise and e-mail it to Ken or Tom. Chris suggested that the committee also look at the FAQ's on the Chapter website for basic information.

### **Conflict Resolution Day**

Ken said that, after receiving feedback from ACR staff and other chapters in Philadelphia, he personally thinks we did a pretty good job on obtaining resolutions. He offered his congratulations to everyone who obtained resolutions and publicized this across the state. He suggested that we may need a committee to work on this for next year, and include activities such as obtaining proclamations and recruiting volunteers to donate a day of pro bono ADR service. Len agreed that a committee was a good idea, and suggested that we should plan early to arrange a meeting with the Governor next year and to obtain congressional recognition for Conflict Resolution Day.

A committee was formed to work on Conflict Resolution Day for next year. Committee members are:

Len Helfand, Chair  
Chris Shulman  
Carol Tresca

Ken said that he would send the proclamations that he has to Len, and that he would also check with Jennifer Druliner to make sure that she has copies of all resolutions for Florida.

Len suggested that this committee should also coordinate closely with the Speaker's Bureau, so that speakers would also be a part of Conflict Resolution Day. He also suggested that the Chapter try to have someone present for the issuance/reading of the proclamation for their respective area. Len announced that a press release was sent out for Conflict Resolution Day, and Ken suggested that this should be repeated each year to further publicize what we are doing.

### **New Business:**

#### **Bank Account**

Karen reported that she did some research in August after discussion about moving the bank account to avoid paying a service charge. She suggested that the account be moved to Compass Bank inasmuch as we can open a business account there with no service fee. The bank has national locations, and the new Treasurer will only have to sign a new signature card. A motion was made by Carol Tresca to authorize the Chapter Treasurer,

now and in the future, to select a bank at which the Chapter will not have to pay a service fee. Motion was seconded by Fernaundra and passed.

### **Legislative Committee**

Ken said that he had a conversation with Sharon Press and that she had suggested that it would be of value to our members to regularly provide updates of any legislative activity of interest (for example, the Supreme Court changing requirements for mediator certification). Ken said that a Legislative Committee could keep abreast of and report about legislative activity through the newsletter and may also try to do some lobbying in the future. Elinor Robin agreed, and said that mediators should really have a lobbyist but cannot afford one. She suggested that we consider partnering with another organization, such as the Florida Academy of Professional Mediators or the Mediation Association of South Florida, to speak to the legislature on behalf of our interests. She said that the interests of our organizations are almost identical and there are membership overlaps also. It was suggested that the chairperson of the committee should probably be located in Tallahassee, at least to start. Committee members are:

Elinor Robin, Chair  
Len Helfand  
Fernaundra Ferguson  
Chris Shulman

Ken suggested that Chris put something in the newsletter about the new committees and encouraging members to contact committee chairpersons if they are interested in working on a committee.

### **Prospective Committee Activities:**

#### **Programs Committee**

Ken stated that we really need to do some type of program, since this was unsuccessful last year. Ken asked Fernaundra to contact the other committee members by e-mail.

#### **Membership Committee**

Ken said that Darryl Wilson was working on providing a roster of Florida ACR members who are not members of the Florida Chapter. Ken suggested that committee members, Fernaundra and Carline Emanuel, contact Darryl Wilson by phone or e-mail, and that the committee get together and come up with some kind of exciting cover letter to be sent out with our application in an effort to increase membership. Ken suggested that the committee also talk about some other types of economic benefits that we might offer (credit union membership, discounts, insurance access). He requested that committees forward this information to Chris for the newsletter and to Tom for website consideration.

#### **Other New Business:**

Len said that a press release will go out in the next week or two about Sharon and Ken being elected to the ACR Board, along with a few lines about ACR. Len requested that Fernaundra forward him her resumé.

Chris also requested an article from Ken, Carline, and Fernaundra on the national conference for the newsletter.

**Next Board Meeting:**

The next Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2007, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m., via conference call.

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris and seconded by Len. The meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Carol M. Tresca  
Secretary