GLPA Annual Business Meeting

Peoria Riverfront Museum
Peoria, IL
October 20, 2024

TO PUBLISH

A recording of the Business Meeting can be found on GLPA's YouTube channel. https://www.youtube.com/live/C0DowLkmH5M

Executive Committee Present: Mark Percy (President), Mike Smail (President-Elect). Dan Tell (Past President), Sally Brummel (Secretary), Katy Downing (Treasurer), Sara Schultz (Inclusion and Outreach Officer), Steve Crawford (Technology Chair), Heidi Westrick (Development Chair), Jackie Baughman (Publications Chair), Renae Kerrigan (Conference Planning Chair), Charissa Sedor (Membership Chair), Melinda O'Malley (Education Chair)

This certifies a quorum with more than half of registered members in attendance.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:16 p.m. CDT on Thursday October 24, 2024, Mark Percy presiding.

Approval of Minutes

Anna Green moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes. Jackie Baughman seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report (Katy Downing): Katy Downing reported on taxes, insurance, account balances, and historic and current income and expenses. She noted that because we are mid-conference, many bills have not been paid. The CD with the donation from Betty Wasiluk is in a separate account so it does not appear in these balances. Most revenue is from the conference. Membership is not separated as its own revenue because most people pay dues with conference registration, which is not itemized on transaction reports.

President's Report (Mark Percy): Mark Percy described the process of forming a 501(c)(3) for the Betty Wasiluk endowment. It will be led by a board of the sitting President, Past-President, and Treasurer serving in the same roles as on the executive committee, pending the result of the vote on Bylaws changes, and up to four additional Directors. A few members asked questions, and Mark elaborated on why it is beneficial for this to be a separate foundation, there are some restrictions on how we spend the money but we will use the 501(c)(3) board to guide us on profitable and sustainable decisions, and that this allows for similar donations in the future that provide tax benefits for the donor. A description of the 501(c)(3) was published in the fall 2024 newsletter. The membership will be voting on amending the bylaws of GLPA to allow the GLPA President, Past-President and Treasurer to serve in the same office for the GLPA Endowment Fund.

Mark described the issues GLPA is addressing regarding increasing costs of travel to the spring executive committee meeting, and ways to save money,

Mark introduced that we will be voting on a membership dues increase from $20 to $40 over two years, starting in 2025, and for the student and senior membership to increase to half of that. Dues have not been raised since 1989, and this increase will help sustain the website, the platform for managing membership and other non-conference costs. A member asked if there would be an increase from $40 after 2026, and Mark said there has been no discussion of that.

President-Elect's Report (Mike Smail): Mike Smail described the voting process while members passed out the ballots.

Mike reported that the scholarship committee received 16 applications for conference scholarships, and using a rubric they selected 10 to award.

Mike described his role as chair of the nomination committee. Currently elections for the four elected officer positions take place in the odd years at the annual business meeting during the conference, and the nominations committee will be building the ballots through winter and spring 2025. Mike introduced a change in how the State Chairs will be elected, which will be standardized and run by the President-Elect. Elections will take place at the beginning of the year in even years for two-year terms.

Past President's Report (Dan Tell): Dan Tell described the new awards available for GLPA membership to nominate in 2025: Rising Star and Innovation. The executive committee will approve the language for the awards and publish them in an upcoming newsletter so people can submit nominations before the committee meets in spring 2025.

Secretary's Report (Sally Brummel): Sally Brummel described the structure of executive committee meetings throughout the year and how the minutes are reported.
Sally reviewed the electronic votes that took place between the 2023 Business Meeting and the 2024 Business Meeting. The latter two will be voted on at this meeting.

1. The executive committee approved the appointments of Heidi Westrick to Development Chair and Steve Crawford to Technology Chair.

2. The executive committee voted to increase the regular membership dues over two years, by $10 in membership year 2025 (to $30) and by an additional $10 in membership year 2026 (to $40). The dues for Student and Senior Members, at one-half the dues for Regular Members, would increase from $10 to $20 if the membership dues increase is approved.
3. The executive committee voted to establish an endowment fund by proposing for approval of the membership the following amendments to the By-Laws, and by instructing a resident agent to file appropriate Articles of Incorporation with the State of Michigan upon approval of those amendments.

Sally described that the secretary is responsible for making sure the organization has appropriate bylaws, procedures, and guidelines, and that we follow them, and is leading a governance review committee to provide a comprehensive review and reevaluation of bylaws, role functions, and standing policies to reshape things into a clear, functional state. This will provide our future leaders a better template to work from to be effective in getting things done for the membership.

Inclusion and Outreach Report (Sara Schultz): Sara Schulz thanked the members who signed up to be conference helpers and drivers, a new initiative started for this conference.
Sara described her current initiatives, and is asking for the membership's feedback about what she's working on. She wants to prioritize spending her time on things important to the membership. You can learn about the initiatives and provide feedback by filling out her form. http://bit.ly/40HTynf

Conference Planning Committee Report (Renae Kerrigan): Renae Kerrigan thanked the conference planning committee.
Renae described the way the conference is financed and what she keeps in mind to keep things affordable. Keeping records of past conference costs goes a long way to help out. Some of the costs are for personnel; volunteer contributions like videographers prevent us having to hire those services, so they are given support for their conference costs.
Sally Brummel presented about the 2025 conference at the Bell Museum in St. Paul, Minnesota.
Renae announced the 2026 conference will be at the Grand Rapids Public Museum in Michigan, October 19-24.
Renae asked everyone to please fill out the conference survey.

Membership Committee Report (Charissa Sedor): Charissa Sedor reviewed the current membership of GLPA. There are 298 active members. Charissa asked members to update their profiles on the member portal, including making sure to have consistency across the organization if there are multiple members.

Development Committee Report (Heidi Westrick): Heidi Westrick thanked sponsors for their part in making conferences more accessible to GLPA members and showed the sponsorship revenue since 2008. Heidi put a call to the membership to join her committee.

Publications Committee Report (Jackie Baughman): Jackie Baughman reported that the executive committee has decided the winter newsletter will be the final edition with a printed version. The cost this year has been over $900 for two issues, or $15 per person per edition, which is not sustainable as the executive committee is working on cutting costs. Membership questioned this decision and brought up a number of reasons that it is still of value to the people who request the printed version, and ways to cover the costs such as a black and white version, or eliminating the edition sent automatically to life members. Other concerns and ideas brought up were that we are raising membership dues and cutting benefits at the same time; we could find a compromise by arranging for printing individual copies of the digital version to send to those who still want it; there might be a need for people who prefer to read a physical copy and don't have access to a printer; formatting a newsletter to be electronic first; have the people who want the printed version opt in to pay for it.
The executive committee provided a number of responses: we switched to color 10 years ago and are seeing declining requests for printed newsletter; the color digital version is not formatted to look nice printed in black and white so there would need to be two versions made; the previous publications chair had been able to use institutional resources at BGSU that minimized the costs of printing and mailing; having a digital version allows for changes to make it more accessible for people with impaired vision by being able to change fonts, colors, etc.
Mark concluded the conversation by saying the executive committee will take the membership's comments under advisement and continue to discuss the issue. He pointed out that the volunteer service provided by the previous editor was not just the physical work, it was donated services for the printing. To get any significant reduction from the current cost we would need an organization with an onsite print shop who can get us a good price on printing, and is open to hearing from members about ways they can contribute.

Charissa reported the newsletter ad sponsorship She thanked Waylena McCulley for developing a template for conference paper submissions, and reminded members to submit their papers for the proceedings as required.

Education Committee Report (Melinda O'Malley): Melinda O'Malley thanked the previous Education Chair Peggy Hernandez for her work. She described a number of projects she is working on and is asking for members to join the committee to help.

- Continuing the Educator PLC (Professional Learning Committee) online meetings
- A regularly updated resource of articles on our website for our own professional development.
- Updating and sorting old TIPS booklets
- Creating a repository of solar eclipse resources

- Contributing to Live from the Planetarium sequel project, a video-audio catalog of presentations and activities for colleagues to share their expertise

Existing resources

- E-Handbook under Resources>Educational Resources
- Project grants

Melinda reminded content creators to include relevant standards with their activities and productions.

Technology Committee Report (Steve Crawford): Steve Crawford reported that the new registration system is tied into the membership database. They ran into a lot of issues but next year we can use the same system and it will be much smoother.

Voting Results

The vote to 501(c)(3) passed with unanimous approval.
The vote to raise the membership dues passed with near unanimous approval.

Old Business

There was no Old Business.

New Business

Multiple committee members are looking for volunteers to help their teams–Inclusion & Outreach, Membership, Development, Publications and Communications, Education. Use this link to sign up for these or other committees. https://glpa.memberclicks.net/get-involved-2023#!/

Adjournment

Ben Senson moved to adjourn the meeting. Charlie Rau seconded. The motion carried.
The Business Meeting adjourned 5:08 p.m.CDT on Thursday October 24, 2024.