

SACAC General Membership Meeting Minutes from Myrtle Beach, SC April 8, 2014

President Deanna Voss began the meeting by asking the membership to **approve the minutes** from our last meeting at NACAC 2013. Scott Chrysler made the motion, and Sam Moss seconded. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Laura Martin gave a **budget report**. We have \$237,637.51 in checking right now, much of which will be used to pay bills from the conference. Thanks to our wonderful conference committee led by Lauren Sefton, we will make some money on this conference. We have \$359,424.74 in our investment funds with Raymond James.

Government Relations Chair Debra Landesberg gave a report on our Legislative Days this year. At these events, members meet at the state capital, receive training, and meet with legislators to educate them about our profession. @NACAC and @HawkinsNACAC are the Twitter hashtags for NACAC's Government Relations arm. Debra gave a brief history of SACAC's Legislative Days and recognized state chairs:

David Dixon (GA)
Cristina Cruz (FL)
Valerie Jones (TN)
Scott Johnson (MS)
Joe Freeman (AL)
Nancy Peterson (NC)
Kathryn Taylor (SC)
Christy Seibert (LA).

All participants from this year's Day on the Hill in Washington, DC, and state Legislative Days stood for recognition. We are still seeking a chair in the state of Arkansas; please let Debra or Co-Chair Jessica Sant if you are interested. A legislator in Mississippi has invited us to co-write a bill, so that is exciting news.

Professional Development Co-Chair Claudia Goldbach reported that SACAC has three summer programs. Sweet Tea Tour is in its 5th year (Ivey Harrison and Caroline Morris, chairs). They will be traveling throughout Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana this summer. Registration has been closed since the first day, as the tour remains very popular.

Summer Seminar will be hosted by Wofford College this year and is chaired by Phil Hooper and Sarah Bast. Summer Seminar registration will open by April 15. This year's Dry Run will be hosted by University of Miami and chaired by Meredith Coen and Grant Cutler. Registration will be open in April as well. The 2015 and 2016 Dry Run workshops will be held at NC State. SAIL, our professional development for middle managers, is on hold and will be reworked in the near future.

Tyler Peterson gave a **membership report**. Our total membership as of today is 1680. We have seen a big increase in SC and NC memberships this year. Tyler asked members to advertise our state Drive-In Workshops to friends and colleagues and to follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

State and Area Initiatives chair Brandi Lyndall announced that GA, NC, SC, AL, TN, and MS have hosted Drive-Ins this spring. MS had the largest attendance this year, and TN had a wonderful event that included a Mini Camp and College Fair as well. FL and LA Drive-Ins are later this month; don't miss out! Please let Brandi or Co-Chair Serge Desir know if you'd like to get more involved in your own state.

National College Fairs Chair Rick Funk announced that we had 13 college fairs in the southern region this year. Rick recognized the site leaders for these events. Rick expressed enthusiasm for the conference's location of Birmingham next year.

Editorial Chair Connie Scrivens thanked the membership for their *Southern Scope* submissions and encouraged members to continue to contribute.

Deanna Voss introduced Tom Weede who provided an **update from NACAC**. Tom thanked the three SACAC Presidents and those from Southern ACAC who have served as NACAC President in the past. Current initiatives include a focus on transfer students. A newly formed committee will be putting together focus groups; please participate in these if you are able. One question is what happens to transfer students once they arrive on campus; their retention rate is lower than college freshmen. Public high school counselors and the important work they do is another current focus at NACAC. Publishing letters in local newspapers is one initiative.

A new department at NACAC will be working on international issues to develop programs and strategies to serve our counselors and students.

Tom encouraged SACAC to get involved in legislative activity in our country. Go to www.nacac-net.org for information on both national and state level issues and to receive alerts each month.

Tom recognized SACAC members who serve on NACAC committees: Tricia Davis, Lindsey Rigenbach, Joyce Mai, Melinda DeMaria, Phyllis Gill, Scott Verzyl, and Rick Clark. Thank you for serving!

This year was a banner year for membership, with over 13,000 members. NACAC's strategic plan includes a desire to increase public high school members. The Imagine Grant program gives each affiliate a grant each year so that a public high school counselor can attend Critical Components, the SACAC conference, or the NACAC conference. Tom encouraged SACAC members to become NACAC members as well.

The national conference is in Indianapolis September 18-20. The keynote speaker will be Geoffrey Canada, the President and CEO of Harlem Children's Zone. Nearly 700,000 students, parents, and counselors took part in NACAC college fairs this year.

In August, the national office's cloud-based memory system crashed, losing all records.

Critical Components will take place in Charlotte this year. Guiding the Way to Inclusion targets admissions professional (Orlando, July 2014).

A new committee has been formed to work on student athletes—to protect the rights of these athletes as they are recruited to colleges and universities.

Tom presented SACAC President Deanna Voss with a plaque from NACAC in recognition for her service to SACAC this year.

Admission Practices Chair Alex Segura asked members to educate new employees at our schools on the SPGP. Alex will be presenting at this summer's Summer Seminar on our professional standards.

Past President Victoria Englehart, chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee, presented the **Larry West Award** to Edward Gillis from the University of Miami. Ed is retiring this year and thanked the organization for such a wonderful recognition.

Conference Chair Lauren Sefton invited Grants Chair Joyce Mai to draw for our raffle for Counselor Participation Fund. The first drawing was for a free SACAC membership, and the winner was Beverly Brooks. The second drawing was for a free SACAC conference registration for 2015, and the winner was Jesse Monroe.

Joyce Mai gave a **grants update**. The Counselor Participation Fund gives assistance to professionals with little to no budget to attend professional development workshops. We funded 21 counselors to attend the conference this year. Two counselors will be attending the Sweet Tea Tour on CPF funding, and several grants will be awarded to Summer Seminar applicants as well.

GA Tech, NC State, and Charlotte Independent Schools sponsored CPF grants this year, which resulted in four additional public school counselors attending the conference. UNC Greensboro and Queens sponsored counselors to attend on their own, and Coastal Carolina sponsored all local counselors for Local Counselor Day yesterday. Joyce thanked Nicole Cook, our Counselor Participation Fund chair, who is rotating off this year. The Extend the Dream grant committee had interviews during the conference. We had 11 applications, and Joyce thanked chair Stracee Robinson. The Extend the Dream scholarships fund students, and applications are being accepted through May 23. Joyce is seeking volunteers for reviewing student applications; please let her know if you are interested. We received 83 applications last year. The Silent Auction funds these scholarships, in addition to regularly budgeted funding.

Lauren thanked the hotel staff and SACAC executive assistant Elizabeth Merritt. Lauren thanked Silent Auction donors and bidders; we raised over \$3700—way to go! A few items have not been claimed; please do so. Please recycle your tote bags and name badges. The blue forms on the tables are volunteer forms for Birmingham 2015; we'd love to have your help. Continuing Education Unit forms must be turned in on site before you leave. Hotel check out has been extended until 12:15, after the last session.

Deanna Voss announced that the 2017 conference will be a "super conference" with Texas and Rocky Mount ACACs in San Antonio.

Deanna introduced the **slate of officers and President-Elect**:

President-Elect: Lauren Sefton, Associate Director of Admissions, Rhodes College (TN)
Board Members: Ivy Brewer, Associate Dean of College Guidance, Darlington School (GA)
Sherry Brouillette, Director of College Counseling, Catholic High School (LA)

Davidson Hobson, Assistant Director of Admission, Wofford College (SC)

The new Board members were approved and welcomed.

Deanna recognized the outgoing Board members:

Melinda DeMaria
Rick Clark
Kim Stodghill
Vicki Englehart.

Jonathan Ferrell presented our outgoing Conference Chair, Lauren Sefton, with a gift and many thanks for her service in running our conference for the past five years.

Deanna made remarks about joining the ranks of the Past Presidents of SACAC. All SACAC members keep the organization running, and she thanked SACAC for the honor of serving. Deanna passed the gavel to new President, Brandi Smith.

Brandi reminisced about her very first SACAC conference, the friends she has made in SACAC, and the relationships that we have with each other and with students. Brandi reminded us why we are in the profession and why we participate in SACAC, and she called on us to set high standards for ourselves and for the profession.

Brandi made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and we left the brunch to attend our last conference session before departure.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Merritt
SACAC Executive Assistant