

MSSSOA MINUTES

11/14/05

Anderson's Seafood Restaurant
Hattiesburg, MS

BOARD ATTENDEES:

Charlie Johnson, Jr., Paul Hopping, David McNair, Judy DeShong, Vicki Boutwell, H.L. Pierce; new 2006 Board Member, Richard Newman; and, Tina deLeon.

Meeting opened by President, Charlie Johnson, Jr.

David McNair provided the invocation.

Paul introduced our newest Board Member, Richard Newman. Richard owns Storage Depot in Madison.

Board members reviewed minutes from the August meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by David, Judy seconded; no opposition.

The next item on the agenda was an update on the financial report. Since John Ditto was not able to attend the meeting, Tina gave a brief update. There were no significant changes in the financial statement since the August report. Bank balance is a little over \$15,100 as of 11/10/05. David asked if there were any outstanding bills. The answer is NO. David then asked about when the next newsletter is due out – January. David made motion to approve financial statement, Vicki seconded; no opposition.

Charlie asked if there is any old business to discuss. Tina told everyone that she included the legal review article concerning the Resident Manager issue. Paul asked that we obtain a copy of the regulation and written employment contract mentioned in the article. Tina will call Scott Zucker.

The next item on the agenda is the 2006 Conference. Charlie opened the floor to suggestions on where to hold the conference. He told the group that the local casinos are trying to get up and running, especially since the new legislation allows the casinos on land. However, they may not be operational in time for a May meeting. David mentioned that although everyone likes the Coast, not everyone is able to attend a meeting in a casino. David said that Vicksburg is pretty crowded with evacuees. He also mentioned that Jackson seems to be a good place. Judy suggested Tunica. David said that Tunica is out of the way for most members. Charlie asked that Tina call the coast casinos to try to determine when they will open. A concern is hotel rooms! When the casinos open, they will definitely have the rooms to accommodate the visitors. Another venue mentioned was the Southern Club at the top of the Hancock Bank Building in Gulfport. Tina asked the group how they would feel about having the conference later in the year. All agreed that spring is the best time. Hattiesburg was then mentioned. Discussion ensued, determined that the places are too cost prohibitive in Hattiesburg. It was determined that Tina will call the Southern Club, casinos, and hotels in Gulfport, along with hotels in Jackson, and Vicksburg/Tunica for comparative rates.

In case we decide to hold another MCC at the conference, Tina also included the new MCC information. There is a discount of \$300 if paid by mid-January.

David McNair provided an update on the Board/Officer elections. Bryan Oaks and David McNair were reelected and Richard Newman is our new director for a three-year term of 2006-2008. The nominating committee suggested the slate of 2006 officers as:

Paul Hopping – President;
Judy DeShong – Vice President;
Richard Newman – Treasurer;
Jody Compretta – Secretary; and,
Charles Johnson, Jr. – Immediate Past President.

David asked the board to vote. Paul made motion to accept the slate of officers, Judy seconded the motion; no opposition. Congratulations to all!

Membership renewals – Tina printed and included a copy of the current 2006 member listing. We need members to renew by end of year so we can get the listing to the National in time for the GLOBE to be mailed out early January. There is also a membership application in the packets. Please pass out to possible new members. Judy requested some old newsletters, benefit pages, etc. for solicitations. Membership has steady increased since inception. Membership for 2003 was 90, 2004 was 105, and 2005 was 115.

Since we have new officers, we need the new President and Treasurer sign the new signature card. Tina brought up discussion about check signing. Paul said to write the check and forward on to him. Since he and Richard's facilities are so close together, he will get Richard to co-sign and will forward on to the vendor/supplier. All agreed to that.

Charlie then brought up the redistricting project. Vicki explained that she was been extremely busy and has had sick children for the last few months. She said that if we aren't in a hurry for the recommendations, she will continue the project and could possibly have something for the next meeting in February

Next meeting is February 13 in Oxford. Since Judy asked that we have the meeting closer to her, she will look into venues for the meeting.

The Board voted unanimously to rehire Trey Bobinger as our lobbyist for the same fee of \$2,500. The only question is what would he charge us **IF** he "had to do a whole bunch of work" for us, like introduce a new bill. Tina will contact Trey to get that figure. David made motion to re-hire Trey for 2006, Paul seconded; no opposition.

Judy made motion to close the meeting; H.L. Pierce seconded; no opposition.