



# National Association of State Foster Care Managers

**Annual Meeting Minutes  
October 22, 2008**

**Washington, D.C.**

## **Board Members**

**Kevin George (OR), President**

**Gail DeGoosh (NH), Vice President**

**Shaun Donahue (VT), Immediate Past President**

**Dana Ward (WY), Treasurer**

**Carrie Anthony (OH), Secretary**

**Kara Teeple (IL), Member at Large**

**Heather Davidson (IA), Member at Large**

## **General Members**

**Mark Ruttkay (NM)**

**John Bates (DE)**

**Kathy Adams (KY)**

**Gay Frizzell (FL)**

**Linda Johnson (AZ)**

**Betsy Stimatz (MT)**

**Mark Carson (OK)**

**Toni Buxton (LA)**

**Rhenda Hodnett (LA)**

**Sally Melant (TX)**

**Susan Dwello (ID)**

**Therese Wolf (VA)**

**Michelle Rafael (NY)**

**Crystal Dotson (WV)**

**Carolyn Orf (SC)**

**Mary Griffith (CO)**

**Lorrie Deck (PA)**

**Alicen Bennett (AR)**

1. **Website Presentation** – Gary Mallon demonstrated the website. He indicated that it is not yet up, but that it will be once it is approved. Members had positive comments. Vote was taken. Approved. Kevin talked about having members who would be interested to meet / teleconference at three month intervals to look at website and updating it as needed. It was asked whether any place on the website should be secured for members only. It was discussed that for the most part, it should be unsecured; however, issues such as registration for members might be restricted.

Patsy Buida, and members of NRC left the room for the remainder of the business meeting to follow.

2. **Business Meeting:**

**Roll Call / Review Agenda**

**Review Minutes** – Heather noted that a couple of corrections were needed to last year’s annual meeting minutes. Her name is on the attendees twice, and there is a typo that needs changed to “slated.” Mark Carson moved to accept minutes as amended. Mark Ruttkay seconded. Minutes Accepted. Carrie will make the correction and send this out to the group with the minutes from October 2008.

**Treasurer’s Report** - Dana discussed the Treasurer’s report. Mark Ruttkay inquired as to why we are paying for conference calls when there are free sites that can be used. Mary Griffith indicated that the use of the line may be free; however, normally callers are charged from their lines from calling those sites. It should be noted that the NRCFPP absorbs the costs for the teleconference and that these are not charged to the association. Mary Griffith motioned to accept the treasurer’s report. Heather seconded. Treasurer’s Report accepted.

**Discussion of Board Members Positions**

Recognition of Gail DeGoosh, Vice President – Kevin and others on the board recognized Gail and her contributions since the beginning of the board. She is retiring and exiting as Vice President. Gail explained the duties of VP, filling in for the President and assisting with the representation on national workgroups.

Kara Teeple exiting two year term as Member at Large – Kara indicated that she helped out with the national foster care campaign and participated on monthly phone calls with other board members. Kara shared that it was a great way to get to know people.

Kevin exiting as President – Kevin gave kudos to NRC for assisting him in his position, as well as recognizing Shaun for his guidance. He indicated that the President sets the agenda for monthly calls. He also indicated that there are a number of positions out there where there will be future opportunities to jump in and represent the field. Linda Johnson asked whether the board takes positions on policy. Kevin deferred to Gail and Carolyn Orr who had some history regarding policy positions. Gail shared that some board members felt uncomfortable with taking positions. Carolyn Orr felt that there was a discussion in the past with APHSA’s State Child Welfare Directors who felt it was their role to take formal positions. Mark Ruttkay asked whether there was a separate subcommittee to plan agenda. Kevin indicated that he sets agenda with input.

Shaun exiting as Past President – Kevin offered thanks and appreciate to Shaun for his support of the board over the last two years. Shaun offered thanks to Kevin for his two years as President for the board.

Open Board Positions – Kevin provided an overview of those individuals who indicated an interest in certain board positions. There are two Member at Large positions and the positions of the President and Vice-President. Linda Johnson, Mark Ruttkay, John Bates, Maureen Robbin, and Marie Youngpeter are interested in being a Member At Large. There are two open positions for members at large. Kara Teeple expressed an interest in being Vice President. Mary Griffith indicated she was interested in being President. Shaun motioned that since there is no contest for the positions of President and Vice President, that we make a motion to accept both for the respective positions. Carolyn Orr Seconded. Motion Accepted. A confidential vote was taken for the Member at Large positions. Results: Mark Ruttkay and John Bates were selected.

**Recommendation Regarding NRCFCPP as NRC** – Carolyn Orf indicated that the board has written a letter on behalf of NRCFCPP since it has served as the NRC and assists the board. She indicated that the group has had bad experiences with support that was not there when NRCFCPP was not providing TA in between contracts with the Children’s Bureau. She indicated that if anyone ever had any questions that they wanted research on, Susan Dougherty researched the information and compiled it and sent it out. She cited Adam Walsh for example, regarding a list of who to contact. Even the listing of foster care managers she kept up with. If the board had to keep this, it would be difficult. She indicated that the letter really needs to have a lot of meat in it to help the NRC. Other board members added to this discussion.

**State Sharing** – Heather talked about the need for definitions of terms for filling in the categories for the state reporting document. Kara shared that it would be good to have a clear understanding of definitions and how we use. Nancy Martinez mentioned that she would like to see the state sharing information compiled for the website. The Board will put defining data items on future agenda. Most members liked the form.

**Discussion of Board History Purpose** – Members shared that it was felt that this was valuable so that the board had a context for which to begin discussion.

**501(C)(3) Status of Board** – The by-laws seem to indicate that we are a 501(C)(3) corporation. Dana Ward will follow up on whether we are and report back to the board. .

**Departing Remarks** – Kevin offered thanks and appreciate to Shaun as Past Vice President for his support of the board over the last two years. Shaun offered thanks to Kevin for his two years as President for the board. Kevin motioned for adjournment. Shaun seconded the motion. Adjourned at 4:45.

**3. Next call** – The next call is scheduled for November 3, 2008 12 EST

(Many thanks to Mark Ruttkay for filling in to take minutes while I took a call and at the end of the meeting).

Respectfully Submitted  
Carrie Anthony, Secretary