



MASS WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION
ONE SYSTEM – ONE VOICE

Massachusetts Workforce Association Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Stan Usovicz, Chair

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 12, 11:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/878395153>

Meeting ID: 878 395 153

Attendees (all via Zoom):

Robert Bower, *MA AFL-CIO/CLU*

David Gadaire, *MassHire Holyoke Career Center*

Maddrey Goode, *MassHire Boston Career Center*

Chris Kealey, *Massachusetts Business Roundtable*

Jim Oliveria, *MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board*

Valerie Sutton, *Harvard University/MassHire Metro North Workforce Board*

Karen Pelletier, *Worcester Chamber of Commerce*

Joseph Peters, *Universal Plastics*

Stan Usovicz, *Verizon/MassHire North Shore Workforce Board*

Mary Sarris, *MassHire North Shore Workforce Board*

Staff -

Tonja Mettlach, *MWA Executive Director*

Raija Vaisanen, *MWA Associate Director*

Guests -

Chris Andresen, *USWA*

Deb Meggison, *MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board*

Tim Warren, *CLA*

Tom Berton, *CLA*

Welcome and Introductions

- Tonja welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing guests who would be presenting and also allowing everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of December Meeting Minutes

- VOTE: Motion to approve the December 2019 board meeting minutes (Chris Kealey move, Valerie Sutton second).

- Unanimous

Federal Update on COVID-19, *Chris Andresen*

- Tonja introduced Chris Andresen, a federal lobbyist who works with the United States Workforce Association, of which MWA is a member.
- Chris gave an update on what he is seeing in Congress and around the country, particularly related to the three aid packages already passed and a fourth package that is being discussed.
- Chris shared details about the recently signed Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, including the SBA Paycheck Protection Program.
- Chris answered questions from board members related to education issues, the challenge coming up with a single set of common priorities for workforce development across the country and other matters related to the pandemic.

FY19 Financial Review, *Tim Warren, CLA and Tonja Mettlach*

- Stan turned the meeting over to Tim Warren of CLA who gave the Board an update on the FY19 Financial Review which was recently completed.
- The review had no major findings.
- MWA currently has about 10 months of operating revenue in reserve.
- Tim went over the general accounting standard changes that led to some updates in how MWA will report on financials going forward by categories that more accurately reflect our work.
- Afterwards, Tonja provided a brief fiscal update to the Board on the FY20 budget.
- MWA has collected 85% of dues for FY20 thus far.
- MWA went into FY20 with a surplus given that we were not fully staffed in FY19. While MWA will have greater spending in FY20, the event postponements/cancellations that are occurring due to the pandemic will mean that we will not spend as much as anticipated. MWA will be reviewing the budget and plan FY21 later in April and will examine how to adjust dues to reflect the surplus.
- VOTE: Motion to accept CLA's financial review (Chris Kealey move, Valerie Sutton second).
 - Unanimous

COVID-19 Report, *Mary Sarris, Maddrey Goode, David Gadaire, and Jim Oliveira*

- Chair turned the meeting over to Mary, Maddrey, Dave and Jim who provided updates from around the state as to what the workforce system is facing and how they are adapting.
- Staff across the state are working remotely already or building infrastructure in order to do so.
- Career Centers are deploying staff to help job seekers with unemployment claims and also help the Dept. of Unemployment Assistance with taking claims.
- Some companies are still desperate for workers and are hiring during the pandemic and MassHire is working to help connect workers with these jobs.

Committee Updates

- Governance

- Valerie shared an update on board recruitment efforts and the decision to delay distribution of the nomination form with members until later in April after some of the pandemic crisis settles.
- Public Policy
 - Tonja gave an update related to changes in the state budget timeline given the priority COVID-19 has taken in the legislature and the fact that the legislature is not holding large in person meetings and is doing most business via informal sessions.
 - Mary shared that the committee used the governor's Career Technical Initiative as a test case for using the public policy issue selection document for determining how to support this policy. The committee recommended supporting the initiative with some concerns related to funding for career centers for execution.
 - VOTE: Approval of the Career Technical Initiative (Valerie Sutton move, Dave Gadaire second)
 - Unanimous
- Membership
 - Raija gave an update on MWA's thinking related to postponing the Annual meeting to September.
 - She also shared that the draft member survey has been shared and reviewed by both Governance and Membership committees and will be sent out later in April or early May once the timing makes sense given the priority members are facing with the pandemic response.
 - Raija shared that the committee has been soliciting feedback on the draft membership structure and thus far that feedback has been positive.
 - Raija also shared the new website with the board and encouraged the board to view and offer feedback. The website link was also shared in the Executive Director's Memo in the board packet for the meeting.
 - Dave shared that members are impressed by the newsletters MWA is putting out.
 - Dave also shared that the committee sees the membership structure as an evolving process. The committee has also not determined a cost structure yet.

Adjournment

- Stan thanked the board for their participation and wished everyone to stay healthy and safe during the COVID-19 crisis.
- VOTE: Motion to adjourn the meeting (Chris Kealey move, Bob Bower second)
 - Unanimous