MNIAI
Board of Directors Board Meeting
April 19, 2021 ~ 1410 hours

Members present: President Nicholas Smith, 2nd Vice President Teryn Richsmann, Editor Janet Nelson, Board Chair Dean Olson, Sergeant at Arms Jessica Slavik, IAI Representative Patrick Warrick and Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Jaspersen.

Members absent: 1st Vice President Bradley Litke, 3rd Vice President Ryan Fitzgerald, Historian Mark Uttermark due to various scheduling conflicts.

President Nik Smith called the meeting to order at 1410 hours. Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Jaspersen distributed the minutes from the 06-04-2020 Board of Directors Skype meeting along with the current Treasurer's report. Board Chair Dean Olson moved to accept the minutes. 2nd Vice President Teryn Richsmann seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The report indicated that our cash on hand as of 04-19-2021 is: $21,97638 in checking and $1,334.69 in savings for a total of $21,976.38. The current count of inventory is $10,580.00 (if merchandise is sold at full price) for a total asset amount of $32,556.38. President Nik Smith moved to accept the current Treasurer's report. IAI Division Representative Pat Warrick seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Old business: There was no old business to discuss.

New business: Nik Smith asked Secretary/Treasurer Jen Jaspersen how many members the MNIAI currently has. She responded that currently we have 192 Active, Life Active and Associate members.

Nik asked how many conference registrations have come in thus far. Jen reported that, at the time of this meeting, there are a total of twenty-five. This includes all fifteen Presenters and all ten Board Members; three of which are also Presenters.

Nik then distributed his meeting agenda document which depicts the following bullet points:

- 2021 Conference – Vote to hold or not
- President's Reception Options – President's room, rental space, fire pit
- Banquet raffle/prize discussion
- 501c3 discussion
- Business donation solicitation
- Conference schedule
- Annual meeting prize
- Recruitment

Nik asked the Board if all are on board with conducting our 2021 Educational Conference in light of the continuing pandemic. All members agreed to proceed with the conference and noted that we will follow whatever protocols are set by the Inn on Lake Superior and by the city of Duluth.

Nik moved on to the President's Reception during the conference. It will be on Wednesday, September 8 beginning at 6:30 PM. This coincides with the Night Photography Techniques course presented by Editor Janet Nelson. The Board discussed three options for where to hold this reception.

1. We could rent indoor space at the Inn on Lake Superior. We would have to use their bar and catering services. Drink tickets could be distributed with this option. All of this would incur added expense.

2. We could hold the gathering in President Smith's personal suite. There are potential down-sides to this as it could mean many people gathered in a small space which could potentially go against the hotel's protocols.

3. Hold the reception outside at the fire pit. The Inn on Lake Superior has approved this idea and it will coincide with their nightly s'more making. We would be allowed to bring in our own drinks and snacks. The downside to this option is that it is weather dependent.

The Board agreed to go with option number three. Sgt. At Arms Jessica Slavik and Nik will make the drinks purchases. Jen Jaspersen will purchase snacks and paper products. In case of inclement weather, the reception will be moved to Nik's hotel suite.

Nik asked the Board about the Division paying for the President's hotel stay at every annual conference. After briefly discussing this request, Janet moved to accept this idea (provided the room is not already compensated by the hotel) and Teryn seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Next, Nik discussed holding a raffle at the banquet. The objective is to raise funds for the MNIAI. He contacted the MN Gaming Commission for clarification on what we are allowed to legally do since we are not a 501c3 organization. Because we are not, we cannot hold a raffle for prizes (where attendees purchase tickets). Nik then suggested a silent auction. Some discussion commenced, with Janet suggesting that we solicit the MNIAI membership to contribute items such as crafts, etc. for the auction. Jessica mentioned that she has already been collecting prizes. Jessica suggested changing the normal prize stealing game to something different. Janet and Teryn both opined that the stealing game is fun and Teryn thought we could do both a silent auction and the game. Teryn and Jessica will research different games and report back to the Board with any interesting findings. The general consensus appeared to be unfavorable toward the silent auction idea. Nik then suggested we increase the prize budget from $300.00 to $500.00. With this increase, we will be able to include one or two higher-end prizes which will make the stealing part of the game much more entertaining. Nik and Jessica will discuss ideas for these prizes. All Board members approved of this budget increase.

Nik discussed the possibility of the MNIA becoming a 501c3 organization. One benefit to this, according to Nik, is that area businesses would be more inclined to make donations to us in the way of prizes, etc. for our annual prize give-a-ways. The idea of becoming a non-profit has presented itself in the past and the Boards of Directors over the years have dismissed it due to the nature of membership on the Board. Most Board member positions are revolving. The Board Chair leaves the position every year and a new Sgt. At Arms is elected. Each remaining member moves up one position so the President becomes the Board Chair, etc. The only static members are the IAI Representative, the Editor, the Historian and the Secretary/Treasurer. All of the logistics involved in becoming a 501c3 organization, including any potential tax liabilities, would fall onto the Secretary/Treasurer. The position of Secretary/Treasurer is static, but will not be held by the same individual forever. The next person in line for this position might think twice about accepting it due to the tasks involved in running a non-profit organization and having their name attached to it. At this time, Jen is not willing to do this.

Nik indicated that he will contact area businesses to solicit for potential donations. He will report back to the Board on what he receives.

Nik distributed copies of his conference agenda spreadsheet and asked if the Board had any questions or comments. All in attendance like the later start and early end times for this conference. The agenda can be found on the MNIAI website at https://mniai.org within the Conference Registration tab and on the home page.

For the 2021 Conference, we will also have a prize drawing during the General Business Meeting. The prize will be an Amazon Kindle, or comparable item.

Recruitment for conference attendance was discussed. Janet mentioned the practice of sending conference brochures out to the police departments and sheriff's offices surrounding the area where our conferences are held each year. Locations vary. Jen mentioned that she did this in the past but time and expense issues caused this practice to lapse. Additionally, access to up-to-date agency contact information is no longer

available to her since she retired from working in the criminal justice arena. Janet offered to develop a brochure. She and Jen will work together on distribution.

Jen then asked Nik if the Inn on Lake Superior will have registration tables in place by 9:00 AM on Wednesday, September 8. She is concerned about having enough time to set things up before 10:00 AM registration begins. Nik suggested Jen stay at the Inn the night before so time won't be crunched and she will have the opportunity to discuss things with Jennifer Scheller (sp?). Janet mentioned she might arrive a day early as well, so that she can look over the grounds to decide where to hold her course in night photography techniques.

Pat Warrick asked Jen about vendors/sponsors attending the conference this year. Jen reported that there were two who registered in 2020. Since our 2020 conference was canceled, the vendors have been reimbursed their fees. Jen has attempted to contact these vendors regarding participating this year. So far, she has received no responses.

Pat spoke about IAI certifications and re-certifications. The IAI awards certifications electronically – eCerts. Since this is the case, Pat does not receive lists of those Minnesotans who gain certifications from the IAI. The Board agrees that it is nice to give recognition to these members but obtaining information is problematic due to the eCert process. Because of this circumstance, and because the MNIAI does not have a certification program of its own at the state level, Pat proposes a change to the wording in the MNIAI Constitution. This section of ***ARTICLE V - COMMITTEES*** would be removed: ***Section 3.*** *The Professional Certification Committee shall consist of three (3) members of the MNIAI whose duty shall be to administer examinations for certification and if appropriate, for re-certification.* The proposition to remove this wording from the Constitution must be voted on by the General Membership at the Annual Business Meeting. Pat moved to make a motion during the 2021 General Membership meeting to have this wordage removed. Janet seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Members: Between the Board of Directors meeting on 06-04-2020 and this meeting, we received new Active membership applications from the following eight individuals: Christopher Fahey, Katrina Diaz and Shane Werneke from the Anoka County Sheriff's Office; Nicole Young from the Dakota County Sheriff's Office; Heather Chaput from the Eden Prairie Police Department and Emily Kearns, Colby Von Haugg and Analee Steffan (has since resigned and made inactive) from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Previous to this meeting, these applications were reviewed and accepted by the Board of Directors via email.

Jen moved to adjourn the meeting and Nik seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 1455 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Jaspersen/Secretary-Treasurer/MNIAI