

The Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 5, 2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Meeting Location: Large Board Room, Pittsburgh Conference Office

Members Present:

- Gregory J. Meisner, President, Pittsburgh Conference
- William R Sharpe, Immediate Former President, Chairman of the Board, Pittsburgh Conference
- Melinda Stephens, Chair, Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (by phone)
- Karen Johnson, Chair, Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh
- Joseph J. Grabowski, Immediate Former Chair, Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (by phone)
- Elias S. Absey, Immediate Former Chair, Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (by phone)
- Resa B Stauffer, Treasurer, Pittsburgh

Conference

- Adrian Michael, Vice-President, Pittsburgh Conference

Observers:

- Jane Chan, Assistant Treasurer, Pittsburgh Conference
- Kerry Holzworth, Chair-Elect, Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh
- Ronald Bargiel, Corporation Secretary, Pittsburgh Conference
- Michelle Ward, Chair-Elect, Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh (by phone)

Absent:

- Charles W. Gardner, President-Elect Designate, Pittsburgh Conference
- William Schell, Pittsburgh Conference Office Manager

MEETING MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Chair Bill Sharpe called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

A motion was made by Gregory Joseph J. Grabowski and seconded by Elias S. Absey to approve the Minutes and Executive Summary of the September 7th, 2016 BOD Meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

The July 31st 2016 and August 31st Treasurer reports will be approved at the November 2016 BOD meeting due to insufficient review time by the board members.

Acknowledgments

None

OFFICE ISSUES

Greg Meisner spoke regarding Bill Schell. Bill's return will be delayed another two weeks, and his recovery will take longer due to radiation treatments in the throat. In Bill's absence Valarie has been training for Patty Golick's job for Short Courses, she is also continuing her duties to assist Tammy in Expo. Pittcon is looking for part time or full time replacement the new Short Course software is working well but will not replace a full person. It appears Valarie will take over Patty's job at Short Courses and Pittcon will hire a temp employee to replace Valarie's duties on Expo. Also a resume has been received and will be forwarded to Bill Schell. Pittcon may consider a direct hire on a trial three-month period. After this cycle is completed Pittcon will have a better grasp on the Pittcon office labor needs. Valarie will still be the principal contact for the SACP until at least January 2017.

The office staff is still doing well in Bill's absence, but will need to move on some issues including upgrading the visual and audio equipment in the Pittcon conference room. There will be discussion tomorrow 10/6 at 2:00 pm with John Sember, Greg Meisner, Shelly, and Scott regarding a much simpler conferencing system. The improvements will be in audio and possible video with new technology that includes voice over IP, that will make much better experience, Due to background noise etc., there is a need to improve this system. Greg thanked everyone for their patience. The next step will be the furniture in the conference room. Pittcon will be exchanging the ceiling video projector in favor of a large LCD panel mounted on the wall. The retirement program for the Pittcon staff fees will increase this year due to increase regulatory pressure from the government and more overhead for manipulating the retirement plan for staff employees. That is issued through Massachusetts Mutual Insurance Company. Greg thinks the retirement package is fine as long as they use it in a normal fashion but if they try to roll the retirement over then you run into problems. Pittcon will review this issue and possibly replace the plan next year.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – Pittcon again is a victim PITTCON-2017.org which is a web site sourced in Australia, Adrian believes the source is another area. Greg has contacted our council Dave Oberdik and we are looking into filing a URDP action which is an internet specific claim which would decertify PITTCON-2017.com as site. Pittcon had already registered Pittcon space and Pittcon no space but we missed the Pittcon hyphen 2017.org. When you run an internet search this site will appear above our site and it appears to look like our web site and has links to Program. This procedure may cost us \$1,500 - \$2,000. Greg intends to proceed with this because it appears Pittcon has a chance so we need to fight back with this situation that we have a chance of winning. Greg plans on resuming discussions on October 6th, and Scott has been gathering information from Google and Yahoo which top their web site above ours. This situation hits us financially and take away our room blocks and cost us a substantial amount of money. If the decertification process is successful Pittcon-2017 existing ads will go away. Adrian recommends that we need to be pro-active and this rouge site may call on speakers from our Program, especially the international. Pittcon will inform those affected to prevent this issue.

PITTCON REPORTS

2017 Greg Meisner – Pittcon is in the process of entering something in the Magnificent Mile on the exhibit floor at McCormick place. It will be an item of interest similar to the moon lander.

2018 No report.

2019 No report

NEXT BOD MEETING

The next BOD meeting will be Monday November 14, 2016.

The Pittcon Board meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald G. Bargiel
Pittsburgh Conference Secretary