

Ohio Roundup Steering Committee Minutes
February 25, 2007
Aladdin's Grandview
Columbus, Ohio

Present:

Officers: Lisa Y., chair; Gerry P., secretary; Scott S., co-secretary; Frank W., treasurer

Delegates: Jason K., Toledo delegate; Marilyn (Zel) Z., Cleveland delegate; Debbie H., Cleveland alternate delegate; Tonya H., Akron delegate; Connie M., Dayton delegate

Dayton Committee:

Norma J., co-chair; Kathy S.

Canton Committee:

John S., co-chair; Roland (Jay) J., secretary; Scot B., decoration chair; Ray S.,

Lisa called the meeting to order at 12:12 p.m. with the Serenity Prayer.

After introductions, Gerry briefly recapped the proceedings of the previous meeting. Frank went into more detail about the progress of re-activating the 501 (c) (3) status. He emphasized that the organization should be referred to as the "Ohio Roundup Steering Committee." "State" is not a part of the name. He is working with the accountant in Toledo and gathering information about the roundups for the past 7 years. He stressed the fact that the host cities must be thorough about keeping receipts and transaction records. In addition, Steering Committee must file a 990 each year even if the budgets do not exceed \$25,000. The accounting firm is working with us to file the 2006 Form 990, the first step in re-activating the account.

A report from Dayton's co-chair Norma was next on the agenda. She reported that contract with the host hotel had been re-negotiated due to several factors:

- A change in the Roundup Committee required new signers.
- A change in the Marriott's smoking policy.
- Menu changes in hotel banquet services.

Due to the smoking policy change, Norma investigated accommodating the smoking area options and discovered that the hotel had such an area near the meeting areas that would be available until 1 a.m. The previously planned "smoking" hospitality suite will now be available for alkathon meetings and/or relieve over-crowding of just one hospitality suite. Increases in costs made offering steak too expensive. It was still unsure if they were going to be able to offer three different entrées to attendees.

Norma shared conversations she had with hotel management concerning the hotel staff's sensitivity to the GLBT nature of the conference and the accommodation of disabled persons. Management assured her that would not be a problem and even offered to have hotel staff attend sensitivity training classes. With prior information, the hotel has assured the committee that disabled persons will be fully assisted.

Norma announced that the Dayton committee has decided that all fundraising will be used to cover the higher costs of the Marriott hotel and that registration fees for 2007 will match fees from 2006. She has also negotiated with the hotel to let the Roundup committee provide the coffee for the hospitality suite, a considerable savings over the \$30 per gallon fee the hotel would charge. She also wanted to let everyone know that the committee will offer a registration fee scholarship for anyone from a treatment center or halfway house who can find transportation to the Roundup.

Since finalizing the hotel contract has been accomplished, registration forms will be available within the next 10 days. Website updates will be ready to be posted as well.

She asked for assistance in gathering material for the planned commemorative program for the 25th Ohio Roundup. They would like to include any pictures or graphics of previous year's banners, info on the 1st gay meetings in any of the cities, and info on any deceased past members of the Ohio Roundup Steering Committee.

The Dayton committee is planning to include an art expo of work from people in recovery. Posting of guidelines on the website will follow.

She reported the committee currently has \$4,075 in their bank account.

Lisa and Gerry both recommended that Dayton mail the registration form to everyone on the mailing list as soon as possible. Norma said they would do that and e-mail information to everyone for whom they had an e-mail account.

Norma asked about the payment of the liability insurance coverage. That payment is part of the host city's budget, Frank reminded her.

Lisa also asked that the early registration period be extended due to the later-than-usual availability of registration forms.

John from the 2008 Canton committee reported that a hotel has been lined up, they have a full committee except for co-treasurer, and that the banner is being prepared for the summer unveiling and announcement of the theme.

New business included noting the passing of co-chair Dennis Stramel and the need for electing a new co-chair. After some discussion, it was decided that members of the Steering Committee need to identify suitable candidates in their communities and find people willing to serve – not only as co-chair, but for delegate and alternate delegates as well. The survival of the Ohio Roundup Steering Committee depends on recruiting fresh

people to become involved. The committee decided to have an election in June provided that a viable candidate is identified.

Frank presented a treasurer's report. He offered a spreadsheet with transactions and balances to date (see attached copy). Disbursements of the profits from the 2006 Roundup in Cincinnati are waiting for the second signature of the co-treasurer on the checks. He emphasized the importance of keeping receipts and transactional data for host city. The nonprofit status of the organization depends on providing accurate records to the IRS.

Gerry reported that the domain name "ohioroundupsteeringcommittee.org" has been retired and that only "ohiorounup.org" will be maintained.

The next scheduled meeting, set for Sunday, June 3, was confirmed. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.