

Approaching the Future Through Practices of the Past

Newly elected MACA President J. T. Taylor launched the 2016-2017 Executive Officers and Board of Directors into a new approach to conducting the business of the association by returning to some of the practices of the past during the November 1, 2016 Board meeting. Taylor stated he felt the Board's function was to work for the betterment of the members and returning to some of the practices used by Board members a decade ago would greatly improve the transparency and accountability of the Board to its members.

In recent years, there have been a few instances of Board actions that violated MACA's Constitution and Bylaws. Taylor said that after having the opportunity to discuss Board and committee business practices with current members, it became apparent that many Board members were never given adequate briefings on what the status of a committee was, nor given any guidance on what the committee was supposed to be doing. Having served on the Board or as a committee member for many years, Taylor said he would reach out to past executive officers, board members and committee chairs to prepare guidelines for future Board and committee members to use.

Vice President Nycole Griffin reported that she had been given a template used in previous years for planning and scheduling the Annual Training Program and she thought it would be very helpful in preparing the 2017 Annual Training Program. She also stated that she would like to bring an evening "social" back as it provides an excellent opportunity for members to network and get to know other members. Some form of evening entertainment such as a scavenger hunt, are being considered to provide attendees with something fun to do.

The Board discussed some member's concerns regarding the transparency involving such activities as MACA Awards nominations, Board member nominations, meeting minutes and treasury reports. Taylor stated it was the duty of the president to set and post the meeting agenda so that MACA members have time to express comments or concerns on agenda items, as well as ensuring meeting minutes are available to the membership. He stated these items would become available through the MACA website. Following discussion on the treasury reports, it was agreed that due to security concerns, bank statements would not be available to anyone outside of the Board, however an Excel spreadsheet version of the report could be made available by the Treasurer upon request of a member. The Board also agreed that nominee's for MACA Awards could be listed on the website. Additionally, once a nominee for election to executive office or the Board has been confirmed as eligible to serve, all nominees will be listed on the website.

An amendment to revise the association's Constitution and Bylaws was introduced. Most of the amendment is intended to correct typographical errors in the current Constitution and Bylaws, while some parts of the amendment will introduce new definitions and correct inconsistencies in language throughout the documents.