



Meeting Minutes Conference Planning Committee Meeting #2 February 6, 2024

In-Person Attendance: Matt Saam, Brad Henry, Nina Stanley, Mitch Hoeft, Luke Lortie, Mary Detloff

Virtual Attendance: Chris LaBounty, Bridget Rief, Cristina Mlejnek, Eric Fosmo, John Powell, Chris Petree, Jeannine Clancy, John Mazzitello, Eric Nelson, Heidi Hamilton, Jessa Trbojevich

1. Updates on Identified Session Topics and Presenters

The committee reviewed assignments related to topics and/or presenters from the last meeting and continued to build the draft [conference agenda](#). This will continue to be completed in the coming weeks.

Discussion notes:

- John Mazzitello will put selected keynote presenter Peter Pollack in touch with Mary to secure his services and pursue next steps.
- Lessons from the Ledge (hostage negotiator) presenter - \$9775 plus travel expenses. He may be a better fit for the fall conference.
- Program on pedestrian crashes is a better option for the spring 2025 conference – not yet ready (Julie Long as presenter)
- The Brain-Friendly Workplace is too expensive - \$30,000 plus expenses
- Will the chapter offer free conference registration for Leadership Academy graduates? This will be discussed at the February 27 meeting.
- Be more proactive to get county people to attend the conference
- An additional potential future presenter is John Vance, former fire chief for the City of Minnetonka and radio personality. Chris LaBounty will ask Will Manchester to connect with John and get more information on his speaking engagements.

2. Thursday Evening Activity

The type of activity to offer was discussed at length.

- Offer trivia again as we did in 2023, which was popular
- No offsite activity at Zorbas – too involved
- Other on-site activities the chapter could host at Grand View Lodge include:
 - Casino night – would involve hiring a company to facilitate
 - Game show – Etsy has pre-packaged game show ideas for purchase (Etsy also has trivia question packages)
 - Corn hole/bags similar to fall conference – Not as an exclusive event but corn hole could be part of an Olympic/Minute to Win It event
 - Minute to Win It games (done a few years ago at the fall conference – big hit) - Great ideas online for family Olympic games – this is an opportunity to promote sponsors
 - Consider offering games in 2024 but waiting to tie in to sponsorships until 2025
 - Provide guidance for consultants/sponsors to determine what they want their activity to be
 - Need to know how many spaces we have available to sponsors for games and how many sponsors might be interested in hosting a game – spring conference event must be well-defined before offering it as a sponsor selection option

- Something active is nice – not just sitting
- Plan for an indoor vs outdoor event

The committee discussed who is responsible for this activity: the Conference Planning Committee and/or the Membership & Special Events Committee, as there is some confusion.

A subcommittee of Mitch, Heidi, Nina, Jessa, and Bridget was formed to assist the Membership & Special Events Committee. Mitch will carry this discussion back to the M&SE for their ideas and input.

3. Service Project(s)

Chris Petree met with Shibani Bisson, chair of the DEI Committee, after the last CPC meeting. They connected with Paul Sandy, a chapter member located in the Brainerd area.

- The Brainerd mayor is also the executive director of Brainerd Community Action Council – service project options Bridges of Hope, Salvation Army, Lakes Area Food Shelf.
- Shibani will follow up with Chris in a week.
- The offsite project could also involve an onsite element for those who wish to stay at GVL.
- The DEI Committee expressed interest in championing the annual spring conference service project moving forward.
- Making tied blankets for The Linus Project is still an option as an additional and/or backup service project option. This would be hosted at GVL and would not require any travel for participants. Mary will confirm Bev is interested in championing this option again in 2024.

4. Conference Brochure Photo

After sharing several options, those in attendance selected [this photo](#) to use as the cover photo for the 2024 Spring Conference brochure.

5. Additional Items for Next Meeting Agenda

There was not time to discuss the items below; they will be added to the next meeting agenda.

- Determine Registration Fees (\$595 member / \$645 non-member in 2022 and 2023)
- Menu Selections, Options to Reduce Food Waste ([Online Grand View Lodge menu](#))

Additionally, offering Leadership Academy graduates free conference registration will also be discussed at the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 27 11am – 1:30pm, City of Apple Valley or Virtual via Zoom