**Business Meeting Minutes**

**West Central Warden’s and Superintendents Meeting**

**September 10, 2014**

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| * Call to Order
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| * Introduction of Board Members and Executive Director
* President- Dan Craig
* Past President- Michael Meisner
* President Elect- Michelle Smith
* Treasurer- Don Redmann
* Secretary- Tim Haines
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| * Treasure’s Report – Dan Craig

Income about 23,000. Expenses about 20,000. Previous balance about 7,000 future balance about 10,000.  |
|  |  | * Motion to Approve – Michael Meisner
* Second – Eddie Miles
* Vote – All in favor
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| * Old Business
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|  | * Minutes of last meeting
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|  |  | * Motion to Approve- Patti Wachtendorf
* Second – Jim McKinney
* Vote – All in favor
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|  | * Other old business
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|  |  | * None
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|  |
| * New Business
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| 1. Executive Director Report – John Thalacker
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|  | * + - Web site services: Information was provided to the staff of [www.corrections.com](http://www.corrections.com) in mid-October,2012, to update the association website. This included changes in the Constitution and By-Laws approved at the 2012 conference. This service is provided at no cost in exchange for conference vendor space if they decide to use it. Thus far, they have not attended.
		- Vendor contact: 2012-13 is the first year that the Association (rather than the hosting state) had a single contact with potential vendors at the conference. It is hoped that this position would have three benefits for the association:
			* Provide ongoing continuity with vendors from year to year to develop continuity for both vendors and WCWSA,
			* Remove any question of propriety by an organization president, who might have business dealings with a specific vendor,
			* Lessen the work load of the president planning the annual training.
		- In exchange, that Vendor Contact is provided registration, membership and conference travel expenses. At least a 4-5 year commitment is needed to meet the above objectives. Warden (and former President) Don Redmann from North Dakota volunteered for this post. The Executive Committee should continue to look at how this position can be most effectively utilized.
		- Bank contact: Great Western Bank in Fort Dodge, IA has an up-to-date listing of members of the Association authorized to expend funds. When other persons are added to the Executive committee, I will notify the bank who will begin the process for authorization for the new signatures'.
		- Historical record: Created a printed and pictorial summary of events and speakers at the WCWSA 2013 conference in Wisconsin Dells. Albums containing the last eight years conferences are available for viewing in the Hospitality Room. President elect Michelle Smith (MN) arranged for previous albums to be scanned as well as the ones on display.
		- I attended the Mid-West State Directors meeting Sept 20, 2013 in Des Moines, Iowa along with President Craig. The goal was to enlist the support of those Directors from the regions whose Wardens have not attended West Central meetings recently i.e. SD. KS, NB, MO, Il. While not on the agenda, and with the support of Director Baldwin, I was able to discuss with each of those Directors in attendance the benefits of Wardens attending the annual training and the need for states to share in setting up the training and leadership of the WCWSA. The following week, a letter was sent to these Directors outlining the training resource WCWSA provides and that Deputy Wardens are now included in full membership.
		- Press releases were prepared and sent to various sites reporting the election of the Association Officers for 2013-2014.
		- 2014 conference: My contribution to the development of this conference was to provide feedback to the President when asked, make suggestions as they occur to me, and encourage the President to review the material developed in 2006 as a guide in conference planning. Warden Craig and staff of the Iowa Department of Corrections deserve the credit for the anticipated outstanding conference!
		- In keeping with tradition of WCWSA, and in recognition of his outstanding leadership in setting up this training, I arranged for the purchase of a plaque for the President.
		- Expenses: Minimal expenses not previously approved (phone, trips to the bank, etc) were incurred during the last year and no claim will be made for them. I appreciated the rapid payment of expenses.
		- Forward planning: By far, the most important issue facing the organization is whether or not there will be a West Central Wardens and Superintendents Association after 2015.
		- The whole corrections system of a state is involved in putting on a training event like that provided by WCWSA. With that in mind, the regions Directors and Secretaries of Corrections were approached three years ago and gave their *general* support for moving the training from state to state and not asking only a few states to carry the training burden for wardens all the time. A schedule was shared that would entail each state being a host every 8-10 years. Members in the Directors group come from Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North and South Dakota. This general support has not materialized by states other than WI, MN, IA, ND and WY who agreed to host the annual training.

In late Sept of 2012, Iowa Director John Baldwin sent a letter of support of the Association to fellow Directors. I followed up with an individualized letter to those Directors in SD, MO, IL, KS, NE, with the intent of gaining specific commitment for the coming years. Noted in the letters was when that state last hosted the training i.e. Nebraska (1953); Illinois (1958); South Dakota (1971); Kansas (1988); and Missouri (2003). Only two of those states responded - one citing poor budgets and the other concern that Deputy Wardens were not eligible for full membership as their reasons for not hosting.I regret to say that, other than going to some form of "distance learning" format (with an unknown source of funding and no group or organization expressing a desire to "host" such an on-line event), West Central Wardens and Superintendents Association apparently has reached the end of its usefulness to the regions DOC's. Absent some shot of enthusiasm from non-hosting states, I believe WCWSA needs to make plans to cease existence after the 2015 annual training in MN.Finally, the constitution requires an annual review of the Executive Director's position. Should you desire, I continue in this position. If you wish to have another person be the Executive Director, I would be happy to step aside and support that person in any way possible.* John Thalacker
* Executive Director
* September 8, 2014
* September 10, 2013
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|  | 1A Motion to approve – Eddie Miles |
|  |  | * Second – Marc Clements
* Vote – All in favor
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|  | 1B Motion to retain John Thalacker as Executive Director – Eddie Miles |
|  |  | * Second – Marc Clements
* Vote – All in favor
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|  | 1. Nominating Committee Report:
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|  | 2A. Treasure Nominations |
|  |  | * Connie Hackman – nominated by Don Redmann
* Move to close nominations –Colby Braun
* Second- Ron Mullen
* Vote – All in favor
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|  | 2B. Vice President (President Elect) Nominations |
|  |  | * Greg Howard (KY) – nominated by Michael Meisner
* Move to cease nominations- John Thalacker
* Second – Don Redmann
* Vote – All in favor
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|  | 1. Recognition of new members
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|  |  | * All new members, to include KY, NE and all DWs, were recognized
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|  | 1. Recognition of Past Presidents
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|  |  | * Don Redmann
* Terry Mapes
* Michael Meisner
* Colby Braun
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|  | 1. Review of Notable Achievements
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|  |  | Don Redmann |
|  | 1. Members encouraged to ask their Directors for subjects for future training.
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|  | 1. Review of next meeting location by new President – Michelle Smith
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|  |  | * May be held in Bloomington MN (Close to Mall of a America)
* Solicited Agenda Topics from the members
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| * Other new Business
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|  | None |
| * Adjourn
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|  |  | * Motion – Michelle Smith
* Second – Colby Braun
* Vote – All in favor
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