

**PLATO Board of Directors Meeting  
Approved Minutes**

**December 10, 2021 9:30 a.m. via Google Meet**

**Present:** Kathy Brown, Dory Christensen, Alan Capelle, Patricia Herrling, Mike Kernats, Scott Kolar, Hedy Lukas, Rod McKenzie, Sharon Scratish, Michael Stevens, Paul Thompson, Stephanie Steigerwaldt

**Approval of October 2021 Board Minutes**—motion made to approve and passed.

**Committee Updates**

- **Membership & Communication Committee**

We are very near our budget goal of 975 members!

The results of the current member renewal survey included suggestions for more courses and outreach to other similar organizations. Non-renewals mentioned COVID concerns, time, and wanting more in-person courses as reasons for non-renewal.

A question was raised as to whether we have a mechanism for people to donate memberships for others? Currently we do not.

Several people mentioned other organizations that we might want to explore for connections, including University League and Theater Bus. These contacts should go through Hedy Lukas.

**PLATO Fund**— Rod reported that donations are flowing in and there is time yet to make your contribution.

**Treasurer's Report**—Scott Kolar reported on the budget. The budget was based on 975 members and we are very close to that number. We are projecting that we will be restarting bus/theater trips. Currently we have two trips planned for the Spring, 2022. The budget was based on the former 12 standard bus and theater trips per semester. An unknown for this budget was administrative costs. We have incurred additional costs due to the loss of the office space at DCS. We are saving money due to virtual courses rather than in-person courses. We are also not incurring expenses for course coordinator lunch and the annual meeting costs. We budgeted a \$4,000+ deficit and we will be close to that or even below that amount.

A question was raised about dues. We haven't raised dues for at least ten years. This is an issue that requires discussion and time to alert members to any changes in dues. Hedy Lukas suggested that we should discuss this at the February board meeting in order to give this issue adequate time for planning and communicating any decisions to our members for the next fiscal year. Several people stated that communicating to our members periodically about how PLATO is funded and what costs are involved in running all of our activities would be a good idea. A task force coordinated by Rod McKenzie and including members of various committees will be created to gather information/ideas on all of these topics for the Executive committee meeting in January, 2022 and for discussion at the February board meeting. Hedy will have the Communications committee gather information/ideas specifically for communicating to our members, which will be shared with the task force.

## **SEC Plans for Resuming Theater trips and Social Breakfast Gatherings**

- Response from COVID Advisory Workgroup and Executive Committee –A cautious approval for the theater trips and breakfast meeting proposed by SEC was given by the COVID advisory group.
- SEC plans for implementing protocols –In November the SEC submitted a proposal to restart bus/theater trips and bi-weekly breakfast meetings. The two theater trips were to be held at theaters that meet COVID safety protocols. Breakfast meeting places also had to meet COVID safety guidelines. SEC was asked how protocols would be enforced and they provided an implementation overview on how vaccination and COVID testing data would be collected.

Scott Kolar reported that we approved making the down payment for the proposed theater trip. Typically, the final payment is made a month before the event and registration is open until or beyond that date. Due to COVID uncertainty SEC agreed to close registration for an event a few days before the final payment is due to give PLATO time to decide whether they have enough tickets sold to make that non-refundable payment.

## **2022 Annual Meeting**

- Recommendation from the Executive Committee – it is recommended that PLATO cancel an in-person annual meeting and hold a pro-forma business meeting at the beginning of the June board meeting instead. The President’s report would be communicated via email and on our website. A motion to accept the Executive committee’s recommendation was made and approved by the board.

## **2022 Board Elections**

- Nominating Committee – Michael Stevens reported that the nominating committee will be calling for suggestions for nominations for vacant positions on the board.

## **Other Business**

- Bylaws Updates at next Board meeting –the working group on the bylaws will be sending recommendations to the Executive committee in January and those will be sent on to board members for the meeting in February.
- PLATO Board Meetings – These will remain mostly virtual for the foreseeable future.

Next Board meeting: February 11, 2022