

Notes – 2013 Member’s Meetings

Agenda (all meetings):

Presentation on major activities over the past year

Discussion of 4 draft policies:

- Annual Membership Obligations
- Membership Renewal Status
- Regulation Exam Policy
- Registration Policy

Meadow Lake – November 26, 2013 (Chris Brown, Diane Roddy)

Present: Niska Hodgson, Kathleen Gazy, Yvonne Benz, Ned Caissy, Roger Nesdoly, Wendy XX, Chris Brown, Diane Roddy (8 people)

Discussion

Designation for “RPF-Retired”

- Be specific in policies what the designation would be for “RPF Retired” (whatever it specifies in the Bylaws). Don’t want people making up their own shortform (e.g. “RPF-R”, if used by someone, wouldn’t be clear. It could be taken to mean the person is a Restricted or Retired member)

Policy - Change in membership status:

Leave of absence

- The proposed requirement to rewrite exam after a 3-year leave is good. Will help keep people from ‘jumping in and out’ of membership in the Association. And we rely on member’s fees to operate
- Leave of absence fee. A leave is a convenience to the member taking the leave, must apply for it for a reason, they should still contribute to the organizations. Half dues seems reasonable, again, stops people from jumping in and out regularly.

Notifying the employer and the public (of people removed from membership)

- In the situation where someone has been struck from the register (e.g. for not reporting CC hours, not paying dues, not reconfirming commitment to the Code of Ethics).
- Information on who is a member is provided through the obligation to make the register public (it must be available to anyone to look at) and by posting the list of members on our website
- On one hand, sometimes a job posting says the person must be a member of the association, or be eligible to apply. So it is fair game to let their employer know if their status changes
- On the other hand it feels invasive to a person’s privacy (going too far)
- General agreement with the suggestion to have a section on the website for “Membership Renewals and Updates”, where you would list new members, current members, and people who are no longer members.

Exam Policy

- Puts some parameters around how many times a person can fail.
- How many have written the exam so far? (roughly 7 or 8)
- Trends in membership? Fell off with the downturn of the industry, now increasing a bit. Could be described as a slight trend up.

Registration Policy

- Discussion about sponsorship – what are the expectations of the sponsor? Meant to be a mentor
- Feedback on Draft Policies Highlighted
- Feedback to Chris by Monday am (Dec 2), for discussion during next week’s council meeting

Right to Practice

- What is consequence if someone is not a member and is practicing?

Other Discussion

- The number of emails being received is good, NEWSEM is good
- Thanks for the work of the council over the past year with RTP and the resulting changes

Arborist Conference – Hold ASPF/CIF AGMs in conjunction with it, in Saskatoon

- Likely would hurt our attendance. Not many members would make the trip to Saskatoon
- Suggestions:
 - Invite them to come up to our meeting, and give a presentation
 - Encourage the link.

Prince Albert Meeting– November 27, 2013 (Chris Brown, Diane Roddy)

Present: Brian Poniatowski., Stephen Oldford, Rory McIntosh, John Thompson, Sindy Nicholson, Lisa Clark, Keith Chator, Marty Ferguson, Matthew Burtney, Bryan Fraser, Phil Loseth, Xianhua Kong, Xilin Fang, Dave Linden, Michael McLaughlin, Chris Brown, Diane Roddy.

Discussion:

Members Change of Status Policy

Leave of absence – continuing competency

- OK with 3 years leave of absence, after which must rewrite exam. The half- life of forestry knowledge is 7 years (OPFA has done published some research on that). After about 3.5 years of not practicing, a person would lose about ¼ of their knowledge – so 3 years sounds about right.

Dues while on leave

- How much is reasonable? Half dues sounds good.

Annual Membership Renewal Obligations

- Question whether \$50 enough of a late fee to cover the amount of time that is spent tracking people down (those members take a disproportionate amount of effort from the registrar)
- Have just one form dealing with the non- completion of obligations. So if not complete, just send it back to them. Put all 3 obligations on to this. Include a line for if employer is paying the dues as well.

Exam Policy

- Exam – can put right on the top what plagiarism is – unprofessional, unethical.
- Please submit comments by Dec 1st

Arborist Conference – Hold ASPF/CIF AGMs in conjunction with it, in Saskatoon

- Support for the idea of doing something with the Agrologists,

- At this conference the Agrologists are going to be exploring a series of topics that are just to the side for most of us practicing forestry that we might find really interesting. It is a national conference.
- Support a presentation to them, could stress the accountability they have for good practices (e.g. when pruning trees etc.).
- Is there a window when the AGM has to be held within, in the bylaws?
- Conclusion – It may be our AGM that we plan to do something with them around, but support for a joint conference opportunity.

Right to Practice

- Question about whether contracts should now be stating you must be an RFP
- Concern and discussion related to RTP affecting a person's ability to do business (earn a living). If are enforcing this now, doesn't leave time for the 2 year training period. If contracts being issued state you must be a RPF to bid, will be ineligible for the work.
- Can practice if "in-training", under the supervision of a RPF or RPFT, but the RPF or RPFT may not be willing to take on that liability
- Complaints – can you take a 3rd hand complaint? (May be heresy). Must it be a member who is impacted by the malpractice? Any member of the public can lodge a complaint. However the Prof Conduct Committee will screen complaints, and decide on the ones that truly need to get to the Discipline Committee stage.
- Rory would be prepared to help on RTP committee (can't make next week's meeting though)
- Generally in a RTP province (at least in BC) the issues aren't with operational people doing business on the ground, they are with people offering advice, writing plans

Hudson Bay Meeting: – November 27, 2013 (Chris Brown)

Present: Don Grebstad, Matt Eckert, Lee Price, Conrad Paskell, Darcy Parkman, John Daisley, Amber Dereshkevich, Chris Brown, Mike McColgan

Discussion:

Right to practice – there was some discussion around the scope and ensuring that we get it right so that we are not restricting people from doing their jobs. This discussion involved scope around contracting.

Public Appointee to council – there was discussion around the rights of this public member and it was indicated that they had the same voting rights as other members of council and the same rights as other members of discipline committee members. Folks felt this was good as it was an outside person who would likely not have a bias and look at things with a fresh perspective. As well, being a lawyer and a member of the bar would have required commitments for ethical conduct.

Members Change of Status Policy – question was asked whether the timeframes for the leave of absence and the requirements was appropriate i.e., less than 36 months simply pay and return; 36 to 72 months re-write exam, pay and return; and after 72 months above requirements plus potentially other competency requirements. Folks thought it was a reasonable timeframe. It was asked that feedback be provided by Monday.

Question was asked in regard to amount of dues for someone on leave. It was mentioned that we were looking at half dues. There was comment that no dues should be paid if there was no right to practice or title. It was explained that this allows them to keep an affiliation and can get right back in where as if they resign need to re-apply and go through whole process. It was asked what folks thought would be an appropriate amount to remain affiliated and “hold a place” even though they couldn’t practice on leave most folks felt half was reasonable.

Annual Membership Renewal Obligations Policy – folks thought the process and timeframes seemed suitable. A quarter of a year to pay up and complete obligations was reasonable. A suggestion was made that for the annual acknowledgement of commitment to the code of ethics we might want to consider actually requiring the member to sign rather than just a check off. It was asked that feedback be provided by Monday.

Folks seemed ok with informing the employer where possible that a member is no longer a member. They felt that sharing information as to why might be confidential but simply indicating they were no longer a member was fine.

Exam Registration Policy – it was indicated that this has been out for a while and asked that feedback be provided by Monday.

Registration Policy – it was indicated that feedback not be required by Monday.

Other discussion – the question was asked whether folks were ok with the amount of information and emails that were coming out from the office were ok. Folks had no issue with this.

There was some final discussion around being careful about perceived bias and transparency as we are a small organization with members serving in multiple positions. We need to make sure that any processes or policies really take process out of the hands of a single individual and rely on group decisions that are transparent.