

California Society of Municipal Finance Officers
Chapter Chair Conference Call
Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2009

In Attendance

Viki Copeland
Stephen Dunn
Josh Betta
Jennifer Sorenson
Catherine Haywood
Carrie Corder
Teri Albrecht
Dennis Danner
Agnes Walker

CSMFO Past President Viki Copeland welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. She confirmed that everyone had received a Chapter Chair Handbook.

Past President Copeland notified the group that we still have vacancies in the Imperial County and Sacramento Valley chapters. She had emailed the chapters to determine interest in filling this position, but has not yet had any responses. If anyone knows of anyone, they should inform Past President Copeland.

Past President Copeland made sure the group was aware of upcoming dates to remember, including the Board Retreat on October 1-2 in Los Angeles and that reports are due for the Annual Report on January 15, 2010.

With regard to the Chapter Chair Breakfast held at the Annual Conference, Past President Copeland asked if there was another time the chapter chairs could meet to generate more attendance. President Thomas Fil had suggested combining the chapter chair meeting with the Board meeting held the Tuesday prior to the conference. There were potentially some issues with attending for another day, but many chapter chairs are already attending the Board dinner that night.

Past President Copeland then brought the group's attention to the stated goals for 2009. There was discussion regarding a "Chapter Corner" of the CSMFO website. It was decided this would be a good way to foster information sharing, although guidelines for what may be posted will need to be developed. Past President Copeland will work with the Technology Committee to determine a timeline for adding this page to the site.

There was also discussion about the dissemination of chapter meeting information. It was noted that staff is not on the individual chapter listservs, so all emails should be copied to staff in order to ensure posting on the website and in the MiniNews.

Past President Copeland addressed the issue of the chapter possibly holding joint meetings, but the general consensus was that it was hard enough to get participation in local events. It was suggested that webinars might be the better way to go. It was also noted that in the early '90s and prior, CSMFO had larger chapters with smaller sections. The larger chapters held regional 'hot topic' training events. This structured changed to the current chapter structure in 1992, but no one on the call remembered the reason for the switch. It was suggested that Bob Biery may have some insight.

Past President Copeland then discussed the Membership Committee's correspondence with the chapter chairs. Membership Committee member Agnes Walker will check with the committee to make sure follow-up is occurring.

Past President Copeland asked staff if chapter meetings could be put on the website, to facilitate online registration. While this is possible, payments online would be difficult as no chapter money currently filters through the CSMFO office. The general consensus was that the chapter chairs are content with the process as it stands.

The issue of the Board having set aside money to help chapter development was discussed, with most chapters not seeing a need for these additional funds. Carrie Corder indicated that she may have a speaker who will require a presentation fee.

A question regarding commercial members was also addressed, and whether or not they could be chapter chairs. Past President Copeland will get the Board's opinion on this issue. Josh Betta noted that he has allowed commercial members to sponsor meetings or raffle prizes.

Career Development Committee Chair Dennis Danner requested that all chapter chairs make a point to announce upcoming CSMFO education, information on which can be found on the right-hand side of the CSMFO home page.

The next chapter chair call is scheduled for August 17. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.