



## Governance Committee Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 10, 2022

**In attendance:** Maddrey Goode, Shannon Norton, Stan Usovicz, Tonja Mettlach, and Raija Vaisanen

### Board Member Updates/Recruitment

- Joe Peters has resigned. MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board has nominated [Vera Sostre](#) to take his place. Tonja/Raija meeting with Vera next week.
- Question on nominating elected officials/town administrators (local workforce CEO)
  - Typically there is not a lot of time for these types of officials to do this, but if they are willing and are interested there is no reason why not. Stan would be happy to be part of the conversation.
- Need to prioritize diversity.
- Community action recruitment? These agencies are great partners so it could be a good idea to have someone from a CAA on the board.
- Shannon suggested an individual up in Lowell. She will reach out and connect Tonja and Raija.

### 2022 Annual Meeting

- A question was put before the committee about an in-person vs. virtual annual meeting. Tonja mentioned that last year we saw our numbers drop slightly with our virtual offering and are worried if we did it virtual again we would see even more drop off.
- The committee was in agreement to host an in person meeting. MWA will follow all local public health guidance. We will look to host it in the Berkshires (was supposed to be there in 2020 when we had to cancel the meeting). Will also look at dates in June, preferably the second week.
- There was a question to explore a hybrid option especially for speakers who might not want to travel to MA.

### New Administration Visioning/MWA Strategic Plan

- Given that Governor Baker has announced he is not running for reelection, there will be a new administration after November, including a new Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development. As such, MWA wants to undergo a process to develop a strategic vision and recommendations for a new administration. We feel this can also lead our association's next strategic plan.
- Tonja/Raija plan to meet with a few consultants to get a sense of the costs for this type of undertaking and will look at MWA's budget and report back. Ideally this would play out over the next few months, with part of the discussion occurring at the annual meeting. This

would put MWA in a great place to have our recommendations prepared and agreed upon by the members by early summer. This would be separate from any campaign education or forums MWA might participate in.

### **March Board Meeting**

- Tonja and Raija were brainstorming a potential guest for the MWA March board meeting. We were thinking that Raija and Anne from Boston Indicators (housed at The Boston Foundation) could present on [“What’s Up with the MA Labor Market?”](#).
- The committee was in agreement that this topic could be good so Raija will reach out to Anne to coordinate.

### **Participant Feedback on Growing Equity Session 1 and NYATEP Mental Health Training**

- So far, feedback has been quite positive for both.
- Maddrey suggested that we report on the DEI webinar series and the feedback we receive at the Annual Meeting.
- Raija also shared that we are making some MASSCAP training slots available to members as well.