MASS WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION
ONE SYSTEM – ONE VOICE

Massachusetts Workforce Association
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
Stan Usovicz, Chair
Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 11:30 a.m

Attendees (all via Zoom):
Karen Pelletier, *Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce*
Erin Travassos, *Eversource*
Maddrey Goode, *MassHire Boston Career Center*
Joe Peters, *Universal Plastics*
Jim Oliveira, *MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board*
Stan Usovicz, *Verizon/MassHire North Shore Workforce Board*
Mary Sarris, *MassHire North Shore Workforce Board*
Robert Corley, *Neighborworks Housing Solutions*
Lauren Jones, *Massachusetts Business Roundtable*
Charles Gagnon, *Volunteers of America, Massachusetts*

Staff:
Tonja Mettlach, *MWA Executive Director*
Raija Vaisanen, *MWA Associate Director*

Guests:
Samuel Gebru, *Black Economic Council of Massachusetts*

Welcome and Introductions

- Stan welcomed everyone to the meeting and also allowed everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of September Meeting Minutes, *Stan Usovicz*

- Stan reminded board members that the September meeting minutes were included in their board packet and asked members to review.
- VOTE: Motion to approve the September 2021 board meeting minutes (Charles move, Rob second).
    - Unanimous support

Guest: *Samuel Gebru, Director of Policy & Public Affairs, Black Economic Council of MA (BECMA)*

- Sam led a conversation with the board around BECMA's public policy agenda and further engagement with MWA. A few key points were:

    - There are 1,500 Black-owned firms in Massachusetts and 25,000 Black sole proprietors.
    - BECMA is a statewide organization and Sam welcomed opportunities to build relationships in all regions.
    - Workforce Development is a key focus area of their policy agenda. Sam said he reviewed MWA's policy priorities and saw a lot of overlap with those BECMA is advocating for, as well.
- See attached for a PowerPoint that was shared by Sam and his contact information.
- The board then engaged in a discussion with Sam.

Treasurer's Report, *Tonja Mettlach*

- Tonja provided a brief financial report to the board. As for FY22 membership fees, MWA has collected $127,063.35 (67%) to date. This is on track with what we usually collect in the first six months of the year. MWA will follow up with the remaining regions in the new year.
- While only 5 months into FY22, expenses and income are tracking at budget and Tonja reminded board members that additional information was included in their packet.
- Tonja shared that most convenings are still virtual, due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, but we will continue to look for opportunities to gather in-person as it seems safe to do so. In the New Year we will think about plans for an annual meeting.
- Jim then shared that as the Treasurer he is happy with the fiscal health of the organization and the transparency and responsiveness of staff on fiscal issues.

End of Year Updates, *Tonja Mettlach and Raija Vaisanen*

- Raija provided an update on the new DEI webinar series that MWA is launching next month. Board members or other staff at their organizations are encouraged to attend. Board members can learn more about the series on page 19 of the board packet and look for a registration email later this week.
- Tonja shared that the focus of much of our policy work is on supporting our members in engaging with state leaders and providing input into ARPA funding decisions.
- Tonja then thanked the board members for all their support and engagement this year. Both Tonja and Raija are incredibly grateful for such a supportive board and look forward to next year.

Executive Session

- Tonja and Raija then left the meeting and Stan led the Board in a discussion based on the recommendation of the Governance committee

Adjournment