



GROVES CONFERENCE on Marriage and Family

Groves Conference on Marriage and Family

Business Meeting Minutes

2022 Conference, *Families as a Source of Strength, Healing & Hope*

Paradise Island, Bahamas

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

1:30 – 2:15 pm EST

Present: Anthony James, Kevin Lyness, Marquitta Fields, Chloe Merrill, Yuliana Rodriguez, Judy Fischer, Mark Adams, Karmen Smith, Heather Sedges, Kari Adamsons, Sharon Ballard, Carrie Bergeson, Raeann Hamon, Colleen Murray, Karen Doneker, Brian Masciadrelli, Irene Leech, Helyne Frederick, Linda Vukelich

1:30-1:35pm Welcome, Introductions, 2021-2022 Highlights – Sharon Ballard, President

The meeting was called to order at 1:40pm. Sharon welcomed everyone.

1:35-1:40pm Approval of May 2021 Business Meeting Minutes – Helyne Frederick, Secretary

The minutes were reviewed and one edit was suggested to clarify Maresa Murray's statement of gratitude to the board and 2021 conference Chairs for leading the virtual Groves meeting. Motion was made and seconded to approve the edited minutes.

1:40-1:45pm Treasurer's Report – Yuliana Rodriguez, Treasurer

Groves has successfully completed the transition from TCF to Huntington Bank, a move intended to improve access and fund transparency. We plan to focus on strengthening award funds with intentional fundraising and outreach. Spread the word about Groves and encourage colleagues to join, donate and participate. Email Yuliana with questions.

1:45-1:50pm Program Co-Chair Report: 2022 Conference – Raeann Hamon, Chloe Merrill

Chloe reported that the conference was going well despite last minute COVID related adjustments. Conference attendees suggested that Groves invest in an interactive AV tool called Meeting OWL to better facilitate in-person and virtual participation at the same time.. (<https://owllabs.com/products/meeting-owl-pro>) Raeann thanked Chloe for managing the conference on her own due to Raeann having COVID and not being able to go. Groves thanked both Raeann Hamon and Chloe Merrill for successfully planning and delivering the 2022 Conference. Watch for a call for proposals for the Monograph.

1:50-2:05pm Committee Reports:

- **Publication/Monograph Series – Kevin Lyness, Monograph Series Editor**

Kevin reported that the Buffalo and Charleston Monographs are available online. The Portland Monograph will be ready soon, and the Kennett Square will be next. He added that the change in publisher from the University of Michigan to Amazon self-publishing promises to expedite publication going forward. Watch for the call for proposals for the 2022 Bahamas Conference.

- **Awards – Barbara Settles, Chair**

The Feldman Award Winner is Bahira Trask and Sharon will get her plaque to her along with her award check. Barbara noted that the focus on fund accounting will help to clarify fundraising and better track award funds for donors and organizers

alike. The Feldman Award and Sussman Awards are awarded in opposite years and the Goebel-Macklin Student Award is presented annually to a young professional who shows potential to make important contributions to the field of marriage and family and devotion to the future of Groves Conference. Since all students have presented yet, the vote and award will be presented after the conference.

- **Membership – Karmen Smith, Chair**

Karmen welcomed 4 new members and reported that she will follow up with a survey gathering input to assess the swag choices and impact. Immediate feedback has been positive and new ideas are already generating including tee shirts, flash drives, charging stations, and magnetized notepads. Swag bags have been gifted to speakers and hotel staff in gratitude from Groves. Plans are underway to generate Groves member email signature lines. There is membership information on the “About” page on the Groves website.

2:05-2:15pm New Business – Sharon Ballard

- **2023 Conference**

Sharon reported on the Amizade Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, proposal to offer a 5-day (including 2 travel days) package offering an interactive, service-focused, package that includes pre-planned events, food and lodging arrangements, and would be open to families as well as individuals. She asked for volunteer chairs/co-chairs who would find speakers to lead reflections, discussions, and other non-technology dependent formats. Contact Sharon to follow-up.

- **2024 Conference**

Sharon presented an option based in Wilson, NC focused on farming and families. She noted that a Marriott hotel is being built near the train station there and its completion would be necessary to proceed. It’s about an hour from the airport.

- **Book Group –**

Tabled due to time constraints.

- **New approach to future Business Meetings? –**

Tabled due to time constraints.

2:15pm

Adjourn –

The 2022 Groves Business meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.