

**Coalition of Lifelong Learning Organizations  
Jury's Hotel, Washington D.C.  
February 19, 2007**

**Call to Order**

President-Elect Phil Greasley called the meeting to order at 10:15am. In attendance were: Marcie Boucouvalis, Marjean Buckner, Regis Gilman, Phil Greasley, Mary Beth Lakin, Lennox McLendon, Janet Poley, Michele Shinn, and Judy Wertheim.

**Purpose of Meeting and Agenda**

VP Phil reviewed the minutes of the September 18th meeting and discussed the purpose and proposed outcomes of the February 19, 2007 meeting.

**Review of Progress**

1. Spellings Report – Mary Beth reported that there are daily updates inside Higher Education <http://www.insidehighered.com/> She reported that the latest discussions center on the Pell Grant. President Bush proposes supplemental grants to fund more Pell money. ACE and Department of Education do not support these proposals.
2. Unit Records for students continue to be an issue. There is a move by the Dept of Ed to have transfer policy on web. Bottom line is that accountability, transparency and financial aid will continue to be the main issues.
3. Mary Beth also mentioned the Minnesota Model initiatives for helping war veterans, particularly the National Guard. She will send the link to post on the website.
4. Marjean Buckner mentioned that there is an electronic newsletter called "Thursday Notes" produced by the Office of Vocational and Adult Education. Janet Poley moved to have Marjean submit an application for COLLO to be included in their database. It was seconded by Judy. Motion passed.
5. Pres-Elect Greasley announced the slate of officers approved by member vote. Elected individuals will take office on July 1, 2007:

President – Phil Greasley  
Pres-Elect – Marjean Buckner  
Secretary – Tom Kowalick  
Treasurer – Michele Shinn

Phil told the members that the Executive Committee had voted to split the Secretary/Treasurer position because stability in location and individual responsible for handling money are significant benefits and because Michele Shinn has held that responsibility without the title for over a year.

Those in attendance agreed to have the four officers work together as an executive committee to move forward with little or no further membership role. This action will allow COLLO to deal with organizational issues without devoting the majority of meeting time to them.

6. Financial Statement – Treasurer Michele Shinn presented a financial statement. See attachment. For the 2006 fiscal year, there were 5 paid members: AAACE, ACHE, Alpha Sigma Lambda, SUNY Summer Sessions, and CAEL. Michele also mentioned that COLLO would pay a rental fee of \$300 for Jury’s Meeting room plus refreshments. Members would eat in the dining room and pay for their individual lunches.
7. Michele will send out invoices for 2007 membership.
8. COLLO Incorporation – Marjean reported that she has been in touch with a CPA regarding the incorporation but it has been difficult to move forward because of tax time, but she will continue to pursue. The goal of the executive committee is to have completed reincorporation by the fall meeting, or at minimum to have made significant progress toward it.
9. Future Telephone Conferences – Jan Poley offered to allow COLLO participants to use ADEC’s “Meet me” bridge. Each individual will incur long distance charges for conference calls.

### **Featured Speaker**

Pres-Elect Greasley introduced Lennox McLendon, of the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education. Lennox gave an excellent presentation on his organization’s structure, strategy, and processes for advancing adult education and family literacy on a state and national basis. He suggested that COLLO might consider adopting one or more of the approaches discussed.

Lennox discussed 1) getting the adult and continuing education agenda among the top issues of Presidential contenders, 2) nurturing and feeding congressional champions for adult education, and 3) proactively and reactively pushing issues.

At the Presidential level, he suggested attempting to make ABE/literacy one of the top three agenda issues of presidential candidates and of having as state leaders in the caucus states people who strongly believe in this agenda. His sense is that continuing education/lifelong learning is very timely now with the presidential race beginning to get attention and the three leading Democratic contenders all saying it is important. There is a need to form coalitions to avoid creating a situation where funding for one comes at the expense of the others. Lennox proposes looking at GED as only the beginning, as a transition to looking at “learner-centered” postsecondary education offerings, with continuing education and certificates needed as well as degree programs.

In the Congressional arena, Lennox emphasized the importance of champions on the appropriations and authorization committees. He emphasized the importance of working with and educating congressional and senatorial staffers as the means of educating legislators and advancing the agenda. It's important to get the information to the staff members as they are developing positions.

Visit the National Council of State Directors of Adult Education for statistics:  
<http://www.ncsdae.org/>

Mary Beth Lakin emphasized four points as important in Washington these days:

1) access and 2) equity for adult learners and the military, not just "first-time full-time" students, 3) financial assistance, 4) focus on the public good via the needs of students and the communities, the public good, via "learner-centered" programs, not just on the educational institutions. Adult students and particularly veterans should benefit from these.

Mary Beth suggested the value and importance of pulling our future language from existing national statements rather than creating new language that is confusing and divisive ourselves.

The unifying theme could be something that pulls together the needs for a new G.I. Bill, new educational opportunities for adults and immigrants.

Jan Poley presented a very similar view from her organization and experience.

There was consensus to ask our own organizations and others about their highest priorities for adult and continuing education as well as how COLLO can be most valuable to then draft a COLLO position on lifelong learning.

### **Action Items**

1. Move rapidly with the incorporation process so COLLO is an officially incorporated organization we can refer to and have legal status with; develop the COLLO website and logo.
2. Have Mary Beth Lakin write up a brief statement involving major thrusts she proposed for a COLLO/national plan:
  - a. "Learner-centered" (rather than institution-centered) offerings giving access to everything from ABE to continuing education, certificates, and degrees based on students and community needs.
  - b. Systems-proposals that provide (or significantly increase) access to adult students.
  - c. Deal with inequity in treatment of adult students, particularly but not limited to soldiers and former soldiers.

- d. Provide better funding for adult students, from ESL and adult literacy programs to better funding their postsecondary education. The sense is that, at least among the Democrats, this is the time to put positions out to our peer adult and CE organizations and seek to agree on the common themes to push.
3. Receive Regis' annotated list of adult and continuing education organizations by summer. Use this information, particularly with organizations like ADEC, NASULGC, and others, in reviewing positions of these organizations with the purpose of shaping a COLLO position.
  4. Approach adult and CE organizations regarding 1) their highest priorities for adult and lifelong learning students and 2) how COLLO can best function as a point where leaders of diverse adult and lifelong learning organizations can meet to work together to achieve common goals.
  5. Use information received from those organizations and the statement crafted by Mary Beth to see if we can build consensus across adult and CE organizations for a common position and to increase COLLO membership. Seek to add value to these organizations by creating the possibility of quickly bringing together a coalition of leaders of organizations on particular issues. In conjunction with this approach, COLLO should be ready to write letters of support for organizations sharing our positions as they seek to advance their positions.
  6. Janet Poley will explore different foundations, for example the Sloan Foundation, to seek possible funding to support these initiatives.
  7. Marjean will seek dates in August, September and October at Jury's for low rates and propose low rate times to the membership, and based on responses received, book a date. She'll also do the same with January-February meeting so people will know the meeting dates. COLLO members expressed the desire to continue to meet in the ACE conference room at One DuPont Center.
  8. The fall meeting should be a working meeting to sort through what has been accomplished and seek additional direction for a rapid push to get these ideas/positions into the political process for laws and funding.
  9. The next Conference Call is scheduled for May 7, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The telephone number to call is 402.472.0060. The topic will be continuation of our COLLO position development discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
Phil Greasley and Michele Shinn