**NYSFAAA REGION III**

**October 29, 2021**

**Venue: Zoom**

Maximo Flint-Morgan, Region III chair, called the Zoom meeting to order at 10:10 am. There were 23 attendees.

**Executive Council (Peg Stearns)**

Meeting held October 22nd, President Adrienne King welcomed new members who will be installed at business meeting of conference. Adrienne reported she would like to attend one of each Region’s meetings and asked Regions to invite her to a meeting. A TAP regulation working group meeting held on 10/13/21 which Adrienne attended. Volunteers are needed for upcoming FAFSA filing events. EASFAA’s Conference committee is planning in-person conference for May 15-18, ’22 in Baltimore. Overall NYSFAAA membership increased to 1,066, attributed to lapsed member names sent to regional chairs for outreach. Statewide training reported there have been 1,000 registrants over multiple events, with 950 attendees and 254 hits to recordings once posted to NYSFAAA website of which 82 of the recording hits were for first *Having Fun with Taxes* webinar. To date, there are 250 registered for second *Having Fun with Taxes* webinar on 11/16. Both state’s treasurer’s and HESC reports were presented and will be available to everyone at conference this week. Conference committee member Sean Sherwood presented intro demo of Whova software being used for conference. December 13 is next Executive Council meeting.

**Treasurer Report (Cynthia Roach)**

Balance remaining in account is $6,531. Last quarter’s ending balance was $6,631 with an Amazon gift card in the amount of $100 sent to the NYSFAAA Scholarship Committee. Region III will consider increase in donation amount for next year’s conference, if not doing baskets again.

**Open discussion:**

Darrin Rooker-an issue for council to consider about membership shrinkage which may be related to NYSFAAA’s budget year not coinciding with some schools’ budget years, so members who traditionally pay their membership dues with their October conference registration lose their membership rights during the months of July, August and September. In the past, a membership grace period was given until the conference payment due date. Perhaps EC can consider grace period for future or make other provision/s so members can retain membership rights.

LaSonya Griggs-funding request: FAFSA events, volunteers to be awarded a gift card of $10 value; Darrin made a motion to authorize LaSonya to distribute gift cards to Region III member FAFSA event volunteers up to a limit of $10.00 per person with a total funding cap of $300; motion seconded by Jackie D./unanimous vote in-favor by attendees; invoice to be sent to Cynthia by LaSonya.

Attendees were asked about favorite NYSFAAA conference session - Justin Draeger; ASLA not definite yet; most FAFSA changes to occur for 24/25 year; LaSonya noted FAFSA changes; changes to methodology may negatively impact middle income families like the income protection allowance change; discussion around how unemployment compensation is being handled amidst FA offices-some zeroing it out if family has been receiving it (option) and some with needing to submit an appeal and request aid (use PJ); discussion surrounding $1 AGI for 22/23 academic year based on 2020 income; discussion of VA Benefits taking place in FA office. Discussion regarding conference also included interest in seeing all attendees rather than only presenter in WHOVA; opinion expressed that business meeting should have been via Zoom than a webinar; vendors unable to be exposed to members attending -- perhaps consider option for an Exhibitor section for vendors in future if conference held virtually.

December 3 Sherwood Luncheon for Region III to be subsidized.

**MOTION** made to adjourn meeting at 11:28 am by Nancy, Peg seconded, with all in favor, no oppositions, and no abstentions.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janet Lafata*

Region III Secretary