**ACOAM MEETING AUGUST 21, 2019 Meeting called to order – 10:25**

**Board Members present:**

Joe Chague-President

Hilary Cohen-South East VP

Jessicah Gower-Western VP

Aimee Contois-Central VP

Rachel Hoffman-Northeastern VP

Brenda Hamelin-Treasurer/Members Secretary

Kelly Flynn-Secretary

Jules Sanborn-Director-at-large

Melinda McKendrick-Director-at-large

Jennifer Cronin-Director-at-large

Manny Maciel-Sgt-at-Arms

Sue Webb-Legislation/Zoonotic Committee

Paul Murphy-Merchandise

Beth Chague-Accountant

Brenda made a motion to accept the minutes, Rachael seconded, motion approved.

**Presidents Report:**

Joe reviewed some information regarding our legal counsel. Atty Moriarty is waiving the $300.00 per month retaining fee for ACOAM. Atty Moriarty also lowered his charge from $8,000.00 to $5,000.00.

Joe introduced Beth to review the financial statements from 2018 and 2019. Beth went over the statement with us. We have had more money going out that coming in recently, due to some extra expenses. We should be back on track this year.

**Treasurers Report:**

Brenda reports that we are still waiting for the Benjamin Harvey Scholarship account to be returned to us.

Taxes need to be filed by November.

Melinda made a motion to reimburse Joe for website expense, Sue Webb seconded, motion approved.

Debit card-treasurers name is on the card as well as ACOAM.

Brenda makes photo copies of all checks that come in. She also started recording money coming in and going out in an accounting book per Beth’s recommendation.

We discussed a different method of reimbursement from Mass Animal Fund for the Academy so that Brenda doesn’t have to mail out 40 checks each year.

Melinda made a motion to accept the treasurers report, Jenny seconded, motion accepted.

**ACOAM Academy:**
Discussed the costs of the Academy in relation to other trainings/Academies and decided to raise the tuition to $700.00. Hilary made a motion to increase the Academy tuition to $700.00 per person, Brenda seconded, motion approved-Sue abstained.

**Go Fund Me page:**

We briefly discussed a page for ACOAM to raise funds.

**Group 4:**

Marshall Moriarty advised to compile a list of Senators, State Reps, MSPCA, ARL etc. to invite to a round table discussion and get the ball rolling to introduce a bill for Group 4 for ACO’s.

Manny said that Rep. Montigne will write the bill-but we are still looking for co-sponsors.

Group 4 Committee:

Kelly Flynn

Manny Maciel

Jules Sanborn

Aimee Contois

Jennifer Cronin

Look into supporters, wording.

**NACA:**

Manny – fairly confident that ACOAM was in line for the award. They usually let the award recipients know about 30 days out.

There is a budget of $2,000.00 from ACOAM towards the NACA conference with a maximum of $500.00 per individual. We have 8 board members that are planning on attending this year.

**October Banquet and Training:**

Manny suggested Rob and Cheryl-they put on a seminar called “Beyond the Dog Catcher”.

We decided on Mandated Reporter training if we can get instructors from all four Departments: DPPC, DCF, Elder Affairs and either ARL or MSPCA.

**Central VP:**

Aimee finished the brochures. Brenda will get prices for printing.

**North East VP:**

Rachael organized the Website. She will change the cost of the Academy. Will post information about the Annual Event in October. Suggested replacing the Scholarship date-make it annual instead of putting each year on there.

**South East VP:**

Would like a write up of Manny’s trip to Chernobyl! Would make for an exciting article in the Newsletter.

Will list the 5 Board members that are up for re-election this year.

Jessicah will take over the Newsletter after this issue.

When we find out if ACOAM won the NACA award we can send a stand-alone Newsletter notifying Massachusetts ACO’s.

Request for everyone to think about who should win awards at this year’s banquet. Dick Stein, Impact, Shining Star, Certificates of Appreciation. Email nominations to the board.

Melinda made a motion to adjourn, Hilary seconded, motion approved-12:37