

NOPHNRCSE National Council Meeting Minutes
Philadelphia, PA
August 3, 2009
Official Minutes

- I. **Luis Hernandez** called the meeting to order at 1:08 **pm Eastern.**
- II. **Roll call** was taken and a quorum was established.

NOTE: National Council-7 members required for quorum.

Officers Present:

President, Luis Hernandez
Vice President Gilbert Guerrero
Executive Vice President, Astrid Martinez
Secretary, Eileen M. Vale
Treasurer, Jorge Camacho

Regional Representatives Present:

Midwest, Heather Medina
East, Tim Garrahan
Northern Plains, Ted Lucero
South Central, Cresencio Perez
Caribbean Area, Jorge Ruiz

Guests Reporting:

Carmen Ortiz
Kristin Graham Chavez
Rosabeth Sais-Garcia
Maria Hrebik
Edwin Almodovar
Mike Castillo

Absent:

Regional Reps: West-Roney Gutierrez (excused), South East, Jazelle Jusino (excused)

II. Approval or Changes made to the Agenda: Luis Hernandez asked the National Council to see if any modifications needed to be to the agenda. The Treasury report will omitted since we will be reviewing the report at the annual business meeting. Under On going business, the changes went as follows: B. Results on 2009 Awards agenda will be presented by Astrid Martinez from a written report submitted by Marina Barajas, and H. Regional Representatives will be omitted since their report will be presented in the annual business meeting. Items to be

added under Other, Discussion on Elections for 2010 and signature needed for Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch. Astrid Martinez made a motion to approve the changes on the agenda as presented. Gilbert Guerrero seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

- III. Approve Minutes:** Luis Hernandez asked the National Council to review the draft minutes from the July 21st and May 29th Teleconference. Astrid Martinez made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ted Lucero seconded it, no more discussion, motion carried.

IV On-Going Business:

A. Update on Website: Carmen Ortiz stated that we have come upon an issue that needs to be resolved regarding the ecommerce portion of the new website. In order for us to use the ecommerce service on our website we are going to have to show proof or evidence of our organization being a non-profit organization for the last 17 years. We can achieve that by either doing a financial audit by a certified CPA, 12 months of bank statements, or a financial report from last year's conference. Ted Lucero proposed that we form a Committee that will complete the necessary tasks to resolve our existence as a non profit organization. Motions to accept Ted Lucero proposal were made under G. Select New Committee Chairs (standing chairs).

- B. Results on the 2009 Awards:** Astrid Martinez read the report submitted by Marina Barajas and Arturo Carvajal on the results of the 2009 Awards.
- Nominated for leadership – Xavier Montoya and Irma Hernandez
 - Selected for Leadership – Xavier Montoya

 - Nominated for Amigo(a) – Carmen Ortiz
 - Selected for Amigo(a) – Carmen Ortiz

 - Nominated for Excel. Hispanic Community Outreach – Rafael Vega
 - Selected for Excellence in Hispanic Community Outreach – Rafael Vega

 - Nominated for Outstanding NOPHNRCSE member – Kris Graham-Chavez and Gilbert Guerrero
 - Selected for Outstanding member – Kris Graham-Chavez

C. Farmer of the Year Results: Edwin Almodovar stated Ernest Wussig from Guam received the farmer of the year award. Others that were nominated were: Nuestra Raices Organization from Maine, Fidel and Hilda Castillo from Florida, Scott Adams from Maine, and Juan Reyes from Wyoming.

D. Welcome of Newly elected Officers: Luis Hernandez welcomed the newly elected officers, Rosabeth Sais-Garcia, Kristin Graham Chavez, Maria Hbreik, and Carolyn King (absent). They were presented to the National Council and guests attending the meeting. Each new elected member gave a brief introduction on themselves.

E. Train New Elected Officers on their Roles: Luis Hernandez briefly reviewed what their duties and roles as NC officers are. He further instructed them to go to the NOPHNRCSE website to review and read what roles, duties and responsibilities each of them had.

F. Review Robert Rules: Astrid Martinez reviewed the Robert Rules with the newly elected officers. She showed them a book on Robert Rules that can be purchased at Barnes and Noble or Hastings. Astrid simply stated that for our business meetings and annual business meetings, we follow Robert Rules of Order.

G. Select New Committee Chairs (Standing Committee Chairs):
Gilbert Guerrero stated the following are as follows as of August 3rd:

- **Awards-Cresencio Perez**
- **Communications-Lori Valadez, Carmen Ortiz (Webmaster)**
- **Conference Planning-**
- **Constitution and Bylaws-**
 - a. **Historical Profile-Humberto Hernandez**
- **Finance Audit/Budget- Jorge Camacho**
- **Finance Ways & Means-**
- **Membership-Tim Garrahan**
- **Natural Resources-Tony Resendez**
- **Nominations-Mike Castillo**
- **Partnerships-**
- **Scholarship & Endowments-Gilbert Guerrero**

****2010 Planning Chairs are Lori Valadez and Carmen Ortiz**

Jorge Camacho made a motion to accept the Standing Committee Chairs a presented. Heather Medina seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. NOPHNCSE Process to Distribute Vacancies:** It was brought to the NC's attention that GS 13, 14, 15 job vacancy announcements were not being advertised. Astrid Martinez explained the process on how the vacancy announcements are distributed on a weekly basis. It is not Eileen's job to look up all NRCS job announcements. Eileen distributes vacancy announcements that are submitted to her by Regional Reps or NOPHNCSE members. The question here is should we continue to distribute vacancy announcements on a weekly basis? It was discussed that the NC decided to add this issue on the Annual Business Meeting agenda, so the membership can decide whether or not they want to continue receiving job vacancy announcements.
- B. Elections for 2010:** Our next business meeting will be held next April in Kansas City, MO. This will be a Joint Meeting with the other Professional NRCS organizations. The major concern is, are we going to have Officer Elections at this meeting? The answer is yes, in the by laws it states we are to hold elections at the Annual Business Meetings. Membership dues are due January 1st.
- C. Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch Contract:** Edwin Almodovar requested that Luis Hernandez needed to sign the contract for Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch. Mrs. Kickbusch is the keynote speaker for Thursday's night's banquet. Ted Lucero made a motion for Luis Hernandez to sign the contract for Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch. Jorge Camacho seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

VII Other Business:

- A. Reimbursement for Fed ex Charges:** Jorge Camacho requested that he be reimbursed for fed ex charges equally to the amount of \$40.00. Gilbert Guerrero made a motion approve reimbursing Jorge Camacho \$40.00 for Fed Ex Charges. Astrid Martinez seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.
- B. Outstanding Unpaid Bill:** It was discussed that Jorge Camacho will follow up on this situation and keep the NC informed to what steps need to be taken to resolve the unpaid bill.

VIII Adjournment

Gilbert Guerrero made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Heather Medina seconded the motion, no more discussion, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm Eastern.

Luis Hernandez, President

Eileen M. Vale, Secretary