

MINUTES
2008 MEDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE BUSINESS MEETING

Nearly 300 people attended all or part of the Maryland Economic Development Association's (MEDA) 2008 annual conference, held June 1-3 at the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay in Cambridge, Dorchester County.

MEDA President Timothy R. Troxell, CEcD, called the business meeting to order. He introduced MEDA Secretary Kwasi Holman, who asked for approval of the minutes of the spring conference business meeting. They were approved.

Tim said he had an enjoyable year as President, and he wants to recognize and express his gratitude to those who helped make it a successful year. He first recognized those who served on the Annual Conference Committee – headed by Tom Sadowski and Clarence Bishop, and committee members Paige Bethke, Larry Twele and Brad Broadwell. They were responsible for making the annual conference work well in a new location. Attendance at this year's annual conference has beat all previous records.

He also recognized the Program Development Committee, headed by John Henry King and David Iannucci, which produced high quality, cutting edge programs all year. He also thanked committee members Larry Twele, Katie Knowkin, Hans Welch, Brad Broadwell and Matt Diaz. The broad range of topics, from small business development to green buildings, provided significant learning experiences for all.

The Professional Development Committee did a fine job, lead by Robert McGlotten and Helga Weschke, and assisted by Laurie Boyer, Sharon Disque, Lisa Webb and Roger Venezia. They should be commended for their contributions to MEDA's ongoing efforts to provide valuable education for our members. They will continue to work together to further MEDA's efforts to provide certification opportunities to our members.

MEDA will be offering its 5th consecutive Basic Economic Development Course in July. MEDA also is partnering with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) to offer courses to our members at reduced rates. This year, two more members have added CEcD behind their names – Richard Griffin and Heather Gramm, both with the City of Frederick.

Sean Looney, Rick Morgan, Bob Brennan and Nick Lambrow oversaw MEDA's financials. Rhonda Ray contributed to our legislative knowledge. Linda Vassallo and Paige Bethke provided leadership on the Awards Committee, along with team members Janice Posey, Brian Darmody, Mike Pennington and Frank Shap. MEDA extends its gratitude to Miles & Stockbridge for their financial support of the Awards Program.

He also thanked MEDA's year-round sponsors:

Platinum – M&T Bank; Miles & Stockbridge P.C.

Gold – Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED)

Silver – Comcast; Harford County Office of Economic Development; Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD); Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO); Montgomery County Department of Economic Development; Towson University; University of Maryland

Bronze – Allegany County Department of Economic Development; Baltimore County Department of Economic Development; BGE; Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport; Carroll County Department of Economic Development; City of Baltimore Development Corporation; City of Bowie; *The Daily Record*; Frederick County Office of Economic Development; Hagerstown-Washington County Economic Development Commission; Howard County Economic Development Authority; Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR); Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO); The Patuxent Partnership; Verizon; Villa Julie College

In-kind – The Canton Group; Corridor Media

He said Dick Story and Danny Thompson brought in approximately 100 new members this year. With their colleagues, Bebe Kernan of Daft, McCune, Walker, and Mindie Burgoyne of DBED, they are about to announce another record number of members.

He also thanked John Savich, Immediate Past President. Although John took on the role of St. Mary's County Administrator this year, he responded to every request made of him.

Tim recognized the Council of Past Presidents, which handled three requests this year, working with those who reached out to them for guidance and support. He suggested that MEDA members make the most of this valuable offering.

He thanked Pam Ruff, MEDA's Executive Director, and the members of her team who work behind the scenes to put on the organization's wonderful events.

Treasurer Sean Looney presented the year-end financial report. Sean said MEDA has done a great job financially, and that is expected to continue this coming year. Between 2004 and 2007, assets (the difference between revenue and expenditures) increased from \$0 to \$51,000. During the same period, MEDA's balance sheet increased from \$180,107 to \$246,901.

Sean encouraged other companies to become sponsors of MEDA, as Comcast is. On June 5, Comcast will cut the ribbon on its new customer service center in Largo, creating 500 new jobs. This new facility happened due to the networking that occurs at these meetings.

Membership Chair Dick Story presented the names of 22 new members for approval. They include 7 from local governments, 9 from state government, 1 from the federal government, 1 from a chamber of commerce, and 4 from the private sector. All of the new members were approved. This brings the total of new members in 2007-2008 to 101, and total MEDA membership to a historic high of 512. An additional new member was added later in the conference, bringing the total to a record 513.

Immediate Past President John Savich described three proposed changes to the MEDA by-laws that have been approved by the Executive Committee. These changes include:

Article III, Board of Directors, #2 Number, Nomination, Election and Term of Office, second paragraph: change the term of office of committee chairs from two years to one year.

Article III, Board of Directors, #10 Committees, last sentence: delete the sentence reading, "Each Director must serve on at least one of those committees."

Article IV, Executive Director, Staff and Consultants, first paragraph, last sentence. Change "The Board shall determine the compensation of the Executive Director" to "The Executive Committee shall determine the compensation of the Executive Director."

All of the changes were approved by the members.

John then presented for approval and acceptance the proposed slate of officers:

President – Tom Sadowski
Vice-President – Kwasi Holman
Secretary – David Iannucci
Treasurer – Sean Looney

It was moved and seconded that the proposed slate of officers be approved. The motion was approved by the members.

John then introduced the slate of officers to serve on the MEDA Board of Directors for the upcoming year:

Immediate Past President – Tim Troxell
Membership Committee – Chair Dick Story, Co-chair Dan Thompson
Program Development Committee – Chair Larry Twele, Co-chair John Henry King
Professional Development Committee – Chair Laurie Boyer, Co-chair Lisa Webb
Awards Committee – Chair Clarence Bishop, Co-chair Kim Clark
Business Development Committee – Chair Bob Brennan, Co-chair Nick Lambrow
Legislative Liaison – Rhonda Ray
Finance Officer – Rick Morgan

Tim Troxell thanked the outgoing MEDA Board of Directors: Paige Bethke, Robert McGlotten, Linda Vassallo and Helga Weschke. He also thanked some of the annual conference sponsors: Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Carroll County Department of Economic Development, Cecil County Office of Economic Development, and Anne Arundel Community College.

The business meeting was adjourned.