



**Leslie Webb**  
**Region V Director**  
**Report for the July 2015 Board of Directors Meeting**  
**June 26, 2015**

### NASPA Board Action Items

None at this time

### Leadership & Member Engagement

Region V. Advisory Board meeting took place June 19-21 in Portland, OR. The board engaged in a strategic planning process aligned with the new national strategic plan. Nancy Youlden and Abolade Majekobaje facilitated this two-day planning session. Additionally, Region V Advisory Board is undergoing a restructuring with a focus on addressing deficits in administrative support. An Executive Team was created and a new structure was presented at the Region V. Advisory Board Meeting June 19-21.

Region V members were invited to join the program review committee for the Western Regional Conference 2015 in Oakland, CA. A total of 53 members from Region V applied to volunteer with this committee.

Vacant Advisory Board and Knowledge Community Representative positions were posted to Volunteer Central and shared out via email to regional membership. The purpose was to increase access and diversify the applicants for all board positions.

KC Coordinators have been on boarding KC Representatives for Region V. This includes numerous phone calls and email exchanges to recruit and solidify a volunteer.

State and Province representatives held a conference call to discuss structure of the positions. State and Province representatives held a team meeting prior to the Region V Advisory Board meeting in June. Membership engagement efforts, defining the volunteer position, and creating a strategic plan for the team were the foci.

### Professional Development & Events

#### **Region V. Chief Student Affairs Office Institute**

June 17-19, 2015 Marriott Riverside, Portland, Oregon

- Thirty eight participants

- Highly interactive institute focused on current topics and issues brought forth by the participants
- Mike Segawa facilitated the Institute
- 2016 will take place in a different location/co located on the campus of University of Washington, Tacoma

The Boise Confab, co-sponsored by NASPA Region V and Boise State University, has been postponed until summer 2016.

#### KC Representative Training

April, May, & June

All through join.me and conference calls

18 total participants

- KC role definition
- Demonstrate how to use Board Effect & NASPA mailing list servs
- Expectations & Responsibilities
- Best Practices

We have solicited feedback, which we will compiled to guide our training during our board retreat. KC Reps wanted tangible pieces for what they could do.

#### Region V Board Retreat- KC Pre-Retreat Meeting

June 19, 2015 from 12noon-3pm

20 participants

- Introductions & Lunch
  - Strategic plan & KC fit: will cover goals & objectives in the first two goals of the new strategic plan and then will have KC reps brainstorm an idea for each objective that they could do.
  - Returner show & tell
  - Action plan: have the KC reps create monthly goals
- 1 session

#### **2015 Power of One: Equity. Empowerment. Envision**

*April 23 – April 25, 2015 ◊ University of Montana, Missoula, MT*

- Number of Attendees/Participants
  - 155 full registered conference attendees
  - 11 complimentary registrations (3 for speakers, 8 for committee members)
  - 19 workshop presenters or volunteers that did not register or partake in the full conference
  - 185 total individuals associated with the conference
- Description of Program
  - Conference theme: Equity, Empowerment, Envision
  - Holistically, a theme of story telling and performance emerged that was very powerful
  - Typical conference setup:
    - Day 1: Opening Keynote and Banquet
    - Day 2: Workshops, lunch, afternoon Keynote, and dinner
    - Day 3: Workshops, lunch, and closing banquet with Keynote
- Number sessions

- Total of 8 session blocks
- Total of 40 sessions (5) in each block
- Names and Titles of Keynote Speaker(s)
  - J Mase III, Black, Trans, Queer poet and performer.
  - Robyn Ochs, educator, speaker, award-winning activist and editor of the 42-country anthology, *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World* and *Bi Women* newsletter.
  - Wade Davis, thought leader, advocate, writer, public speakers, and educator on gender, race, and orientation equality.
- Successes of the event/changes that one would make next year.
  - What went well:
    - Had moderators for each session.
    - Sched.org was useful in last minute changes, saved money on printing conference schedules, useful in running Twitter through-out the conference, used as a social networking tool.
    - Spoken word and poetry at the closing was amazing, powerful, and truly a safe space for those who participated.
    - Facebook was slow to start but became a very successful communication and networking tool. It is still being used which indicates a conference that really allowed some individuals to connect.
    - Logistics went pretty smooth. We had a small committee of 8, began meeting once a week in September ahead of an April conference.
    - All Gender Bathrooms a must. We received compliments on having a “All Gender” sign instead of “Gender Neutral” sign.
    - Some comments in the survey asked for a longer conference but we hosted a 2 ½ day verses a 1 ½ day in the past conferences.
    - Attending Camp Pride is a must for one or two committee members to attend. We learned so much on trending topics and made a network that brought in our national speakers.
    - Overall conference provided a creative space for attendees.
  - What could have been better:
    - Have moderators give ground rules prior to each session, for example:
      - One Mic One Diva
      - Safe Space
      - Las Vegas Style Sharing
      - Respect differing points of views
      - Don’t speak over the presenter; you don’t have to agree with the presenter but you can still be respectful
    - Printed schedules were still requested. We had them available but more were requested than we thought would be.
    - Saved money on having continental breakfast but we had responses from individuals that they wanted more for breakfast.

- Breaks were too long. Perhaps this was more noticeable because the conference site was away from the hotel.
- We received comments on too many ally sessions but only had 2 ally development sessions. Received comment on need for more skill based sessions. Overall, our workshop presenters were good but a few comments point to some that were not so well prepared. Request for more topics around intersectionality.
- Registration through NASPA was confusing from the setting-up phase to the students and advisors trying to register for the conference.
- More than one Facebook page, have to update both.
- IF you change binary bathrooms to All Gender make sure you add trash cans in the previously male bathroom. If signs are temporary, then take the signs down after hours so they are not stolen.
- Comments that our conference was too “academic”. Strategically, we wanted that as a committee but perhaps a dance or some fun social events would help.
- Felt too rushed as a committee to come up with a conference theme by NASPA Regional Conference and our theme ended up not weaving into the conference. Holistically, a theme of using poetry and story telling for social justice emerged. That would have been a better theme than the one we chosen.
- What we learned and did not expect:
  - Very young students who have never attended a conference attended Power of One. A first time conference attendee workshop on how to navigate a conference would be helpful.
  - A meditation/quiet room is necessary. We had about 5 students have panic attacks and wanted a room to decompress.
  - Even though NASPA registration asked for diet restrictions, not near enough responses for reality – plan on having more vegetarian options available than indicated.
  - Even though the overall rating for the drag show was good, we realized that it was pretty shocking for some students – we had young, rural students. Suggestion is that if you have a drag show, make sure the MC’s are PG with their jokes and comments.
  - Just ask for “pronouns” not “preferred gender pronouns.” Perhaps having pronoun stickers verses having them pre-printed on nametags because students wanted to change them when they arrived.
  - Controlling food cost was difficult because groups arrived without registering in advance as well as some groups left before the conference was over. Overall, the availability of food and a lot of it was important to conference attendees. From feedback, it appears that schools did not provide any extra travel money for students to spend on food. They preferred buffet meals verses sit down, plated meals because they could get as much food as they wanted.

- Having a 2 ½ day conference was great but added to the cost of the overall conference. Even though we raised the registration fee in which we had no complaints, it still was not enough to cover the cost of the conference. Perhaps going back to 1 ½ day to control cost is wise. But we felt traveling to Montana was too far for just 1 ½ days and overall results indicated that 2 ½ days was very well liked.
- Some students were very young in activism and were quick to point out everything that is done wrong. Make sure everyone is hyper aware of language and signage to ensure safe and welcoming space.

### **Power of One Conference, 2016**

*April 28 – 30, 2016*

- University of Washington, Tacoma (*previously hosted in 2006*)
- Committee is considering a theme that emphasizes political empowerment because 2016 will be a key election year

### **Optional Other Reports - Advocacy & Scholarship (*not required*)**

Four Stanton Webb Scholarships were awarded for the Power of One Conference.

- One was awarded to a student who applied for the scholarship
- One advisor scholarship and two student scholarships were awarded to University of Nevada, Reno to help expand the Power of One conference to the state of Nevada.

*Budget report attached separately due to formatting challenges.*