

**NYSARH Conference Planning Committee**  
**October 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes**  
**“Harnessing the Power of Rural”**

Charlotte called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Roll Call—attending via conf call:

Charlotte Crawford, Carrie Roseamelia, Helen Evans, Ashley Conti, Gertrude O’Sullivan, Sara Wall Bollinger, Karin Blackburn

Excused: David Riddell, Mandy Qualls, Michael Pease, , Rob Wingate, Claire Parde, Richard Merchant

Conference Debrief:

Everyone shared their impressions, comments and suggestions. Many thanks to Kathy Hughes who had tabulated all the individual session evaluations and shared them with Committee members.

Overall, everyone felt the conference was very high caliber and was implemented well.

Themes:

Content

- Topics were excellent. Kudos to the Technical Committee.
- 1.25 hours for break-out sessions seemed to work well
- Suggestion: move Policy Forum to Thursday

Facility

- Main room was too large – looked half-empty much of the time
- Several complaints that the rooms were too cool
- AV and facility staff were cooperative, prompt and efficient
- Nice to be walking distance from hotel
- Parking was convenient
- Food was good
- Suggestion: It is important to have a single [or perhaps two] Point Person with the facility

Exhibitors

- Great to get so many
- Mixed feedback about having Exhibitors/Sponsors in a separate room
- Only 10 people turned in the Bingo game – not sure what this means

Wednesday

- Dinner together was nice
- Dinner location was awesome!
- Suggestion: continue to offer a Pre-Conference with CEUs

#### Location

- May have lost some people tourism
- Suggestion: Provide brief into to location community [overview, economy, group visit or video]

#### Awards

- Attendance seemed low
- Suggestion: Move back to being part of luncheon
- Communicate with Awardees where and when to go for photos

#### Materials

- Marketing materials and conference Program Book were excellent
- Suggestion: develop a template or banner that is the same every year to bring familiarity to members and others who come to expect a conference invitation annually

#### Annual Meeting

- People skipped this
- Suggestion: move Annual Meeting to a less 'prime' time; perhaps Thursday breakfast

Meeting adjourned at 9:38.

This was the last meeting of the 2019 Conference Committee.

#### NEW COMMITTEE:

The 2020 Conference Committee will hold its first meeting November 19, 2019 at 9AM via conference call.