



Alex Area Stewards Meeting
May 20, 2009 – 7am
Alexandria Technical College 211

Attendees: Virgil Batesole, Nancy Klepetka, Greg Klepetka, Ben Oleson, Tom Jacobson, Al Crowser, Julie Critz, Rick Paulsen, Marty Schultz, John Luepke, Linda Roles, Chad Coauette, Kris Willert, Stand Finnestad, Rick Banke, Reed Becker, Corliss Stark, Marc Illies, Brian Baustian, Elizabeth Kriel, Tom Wacholz, Mark Grandgenett, Margaret Kalina, Jason Murray, Patrick Kalina

Destiny Drivers and Champions Review:

- Jason Murray led a group review of the Destiny Drivers and requested any additional comments/changes of specific Driver wording and Champion identification.

Launch of Initiative:

Articles:

- The Stewardship kickoff article written by Al Edenloff was run in the Echo Press (top of the front page) on Friday, May 15th. 4 individuals called for more information on the initiative from their reading of this article.
- The leadoff Destiny Driver article (Collaboration) will be running in the Echo Press this Friday (5/22).

Community Presentations:

- All Stewards were encouraged to start identifying 2-3+ groups that they would be interested/able to give a brief presentation to on the Stewardship Initiative. Following the finalization of all Destiny Driver articles, a general PowerPoint presentation on the initiative will be put together for everyone to utilize. A presentation signup list will also be circulated to make sure that multiple presentations aren't given to one organization (though teaming up for organizations might work well), and that no major groups are missed.

Issues of the Morning:

- Extensive conversations were had amongst the Stewards on the following areas:
 - o Are we on track with everyone's expectations?
 - A number of people expressed their hopes that the Stewards would have more representatives from the broader region involved in the initiative already – thought that getting people involved in specific Destiny Drivers that impact their area of the region is going to be crucial.
 - Personally inviting people to get involved was discussed as a viable option for increasing involvement throughout the region.

- Structure and governance of the initiative and meetings – co-chairs?
 - The question was raised by Jason Murray about what member's desires are for group leadership and administrative/detail work, meeting structure and formality, and frequency of meetings.
 - Numerous comments were made about how the current system with AAEDC staff acting as facilitators is working well.
 - Other comments:
 - Keep the focus of the Stewards group more as a “Board of Advisors” than “Board of Directors” – supporting the groups/efforts involved in the Destiny Drivers.
 - Continued frequency of meetings (committees and large group) is important – possibly look at more “meetings in the field,” where things are happening with the Destiny Drivers and to bring a wider regional inclusion to the initiative.
 - Additional Stewards group members must be willing and ready to step up to lead initiatives when/if AAEDC staff time and resources become stretched too thin or if specific initiatives become too political for the AAEDC to retain their political neutrality.

- Where are we going from here?
 - An extensive conversation was had on where the initiative goes from this point (finding champions and releasing the Drivers) and if the group continues to add new Drivers as it goes along, or what the potential process might involve.
 - Multiple people spoke to the need of continuing to work on improving the region through the current and any future Destiny Drivers.
 - The effort was compared to continuous improvement in a company – the effort does not end when the current goals are accomplished.
 - Strong support was voiced for the need to celebrate accomplishments/completion of Destiny Drivers.

- Measurements of Destiny Driver efforts:
 - The question was raised about whether it is appropriate to lay out any steps/measures involved for accountability of champions to push them to accomplish their Destiny Drivers.
 - An in-depth discussion followed about the need to not be prescriptive of how the champions will accomplish their Destiny Drivers, but that it is important to have continued connections with the champions to provide support/assistance with their efforts, and to keep abreast of their progress. The Measures Committee may be well suited to working with champions on establishing measurable goals for their Drivers.
 - There was agreement amongst the group that it will be crucial to actively encourage continual updates/contacts between the Stewards and champions.

Upcoming Meetings:

- All-Stewards: **Wednesday, June 17th, 7-8:15am, ATC 211.**
- Buzz & Measures Committees: Meeting time options will be set via email in the near future.