

West Virginia Network of Ethics Committee  
**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting**  
May 17, 2017  
3:30-3:45 p.m.

**I. Executive Director's Report** - Alvin Moss, MD, Executive Director of the WV Network of Ethics Committees opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m. He explained that this would be the last WVNEC Symposium that he attended. Valerie Satkoske, PhD, MSW will assume the Executive Directorship of WVNEC at the close of this meeting. He noted that the health of the WVNEC at 30 years old is very good. There is strong participation in the network by a number of individuals and institutions, and the network has a solid financial picture. Dr. Moss shared the observation of Dr. Martin Smith who attended this symposium as a guest speaker that he thought WVNEC was to be commended for its lively, interactive discussions during its 30<sup>th</sup> annual symposium. He commented that there is not the same degree of cordiality, community, and interaction at other bioethics networks in the country.

**II. Information Items**

- a. Membership Report – As of May 15, 2017 WVNEC has 43 institutional members including 24 hospitals, 10 nursing homes, 6 hospices, and 3 home health agencies. It also has 14 individual members.
- b. Treasurer's Report – The cash balance for WVNEC as of April 30, 2017 was \$257, 457.14. For the fiscal year which ends June 30, 2017, revenue exceeds expenses by \$3,065.44 so far. A financial report is attached to the minutes.

**III. Discussion Items**

- a. Advisory Committee Election - Dr. Moss announced that there would be an election for four at-large representatives to the WVNEC Advisory Committee this summer. Current members up for election include Kay Cottrill, Danny Franke, Carl Grey, and Kenneth Wright. The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2017. There is a nomination form in the symposium registration packet.
- b. WVNEC Symposium and Newsletter Topics – Participants in the business meeting suggested the following topics:
  - i. The ethics of medical marijuana
  - ii. Ethical and legal issues with psychiatric advance directives
  - iii. How to address cultural differences between physicians from other countries and West Virginia patients and how to address when patients object to care by physicians who wear hijabs.
- c. The Status of the WV Center for End-of-Life Care – Dr. Moss informed the network that there is not currently funding in the Governor's budget for FY2018 for the Center for End-of-Life Care. If funding were to be eliminated, then a number of services provided by the Center for End-of-Life Care could be jeopardized. Dr. Moss encouraged participants to communicate concerns, if they have any, to their state delegates and senators. He informed them to pay attention to emails that would update them on the Center's status.

**IV. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.