

**United Ways of Tennessee  
Quarterly Board and Membership Meeting  
September 19, 2024 – Hybrid  
Bowling Green, KY**

**Attendance:**

Mary Graham, UWTN president  
Richard Kennedy, Chair  
Matt Marshall, UW of West TN  
Tanya Mazzolini, treasurer, UW of the Ocoee Region  
Sandy Leavell, UW of Roane County  
Leslie Dalton, UW East TN Highlands  
Lisa Cofer, UW of Bristol TN/VA  
Stacey Langford, at-large  
Nicole Campbell, UW Anderson County  
Blair Deacon, UW Ocoee Region  
Kristen Chambers, UW of West TN  
Mark Cancia UW of West TN  
Jennifer Wackerhagen, UW Blount County  
Charley Deal, UWTN public policy chair  
Wendy Peay, UW Greene County  
Brian Straessle, at-large  
Katie Spurlock, at-large  
Stephanie Wheeler, UW West TN  
Erin Birch, UW Sumner County

The following were in attendance via zoom:

Ira Murray, at-large  
CJ Butcher, UW of Greater Knoxville  
Angelia Allen – UW of MidSouth  
Andre Louie, at-large  
Erica Mitchell – UW Greater Nashville  
Lesley Scearce, UW Chattanooga

**Call to order** – Richard Kennedy called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. (Central) and welcomed all in attendance.

**Consent Agenda** – The consent agenda, including minutes from the May UWTN meeting and the most recent financials, were circulated in advance for review.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by Matt Marshall to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

**Presidents Report – Mary shared the following:** Mary provided updates on ALICE product delivery schedule, Benefit Kitchen results, and impacts of current grants from the Mott Foundation, STEMNext, and Volunteer TN (thousands of youth engaged, improved grades and test scores, mastery of state educational standards, career exploration, service projects, and updates of state standards for OST for DOE and DHS). She noted that UWTN is submitting state and federal

proposals for workforce development for youth from broadband dollars and will continue to receive Mott Foundation Dollars. She also reported that the statewide 211 collaborative will be working on completing the charter and related items. UWTN and UWKY are already planning a collaborative event for 2025, tentatively on ALICE and/or disaster relief, with other neighboring states likely to join. Planning is beginning for SERC 2026, location tbd.

**Public Policy Update:** Dr. Charley Deal provided the following updates:

- We've submitted a 211 funding request and its in the hands of the budget team in the Governor's office.
- Mary's been working with Senator Blackburn's office on the Afterschool Act. Thank you to the UW Knoxville and Mid-South for meeting with her staff to echo messaging and requests. Richard noted that TCCY has also had some conversations with her office.
- Thank you to those who participated in Hill Day in DC. Great and successful events. Shared information about tax credits, 211 and Alice.
- Planning Hill Day for 2025 in TN, with likely focus on the: Promising Futures (childcare), universal lunch and our 211 ask. Likely a collaborative event for United Way, TN Afterschool Network, Boys and Girls Clubs, Save the Children, and perhaps the Y.

**Dues Task Force Report and Motion:** Matt Marshall provided the following information:

- UWTN Dues income used to be more than \$200,000 (even 10 years ago), and they have shrunk to less than \$85,000 annually due to local UW campaign revenues going down.
- It costs \$185,000 to keep the State Association up and running. This includes accounting, travel, salary, meeting expenses.
- This committee has discussed how to get the State Association back to where it was when we were getting \$200,000 in dues. Grants have made up the difference in the interim, but the majority of those funds go to the membership, so it's a difficult model to sustain.
- \$400,000 in grants with 10% going toward admin. doesn't give us enough when added to the \$85,000. This group has studied this for the past year and a half, seeking input at every UWTN meeting.
- Reflected on how ALICE and Benefit Kitchen have been paid through the State Association (not "to" the State Association). For two years we received ALICE reports and Benefit Kitchen at no charge, with UWTN absorbing that cost.
- UW will be proposing a dues increase.
- Richard spoke up and reminded all that Mary tries diligently to offer things of value for free and discounted whenever possible, noting this very conference including hotel stays has been free to all TN attendees.

Lisa Cofer provided the following comments: Mary has always provided our UW and others with resources quickly and is always reaching out to help in areas where many local UW organizations lack resources. We need to support the State Association in this new proposed dues structure so that we can sustain the organization and continue to have the resources to help our communities and those we serve.

Leslie Dalton provided the following comments: This new dues structure will help ensure that we have a strong State Association and this is essential. We need to be thinking 2-5 years ahead when thinking about our budget and potential income.

Richard provided a recap: We have a problem but this is also an opportunity. Mary does an amazing job, and we need to do what is necessary to survive and thrive, with the resources to be effective. If funding comes from other sources, UWTN will focus on serving those funders a greater deal, as opposed to having resources and time to serve the membership. He also reviewed how the Committee developed the formula based on population size and campaign figures, focused on getting to the \$185,000 needed to fund the basic budget.

Sandy Leavell shared positive comments. If it weren't for Mary, she wouldn't have stayed in her job. She is essential for onboarding and ongoing support, especially for small to mid UWs. Erica Mitchell asked for more information on the process, including involvement of larger UWs, given their share of the expenses. Matt Marshall noted that UW Knoxville has been very involved, and Mid-South was originally, before Dr. Robinson's illness. The questions and ideas have been discussed at every meeting with all invited to engage and participate. Erica said it is important to have all the larger UW organizations at the table.

Angelia with UW Mid-South stated that they are unable to vote because Dr. Robinson is out on sick leave.

Mary shared that we will work with any organization that has financial hardship and is unable to pay the new dues amount.

Vote of the Board (not necessarily the membership, we will answer the other questions before a full vote. 12 -yes votes, 1-no vote, 2-obstain, vote passes.

Richard told Erica that we will continue this conversation on the dues structure.

### **Community Share:**

Angelia with UW Mid-South shared the following:

- Dr. Robinson will be retiring after 9 years and they are actively looking for a new CEO and they hope to name them by the end of November
- DHS Grant – To expand the Driving the Dream Program
- Working on several partnerships with Matt Marshall around the Ford expansion

Leslie Dalton with UW East TN Highlands shared the following:

- A Step Ahead – looking at this program to provide birth control and transportation to get birth control. Looking to provide alternative videos for the schools.

Matt Marshall with UW West TN shared the following:

- Uncharitable – trust-based philanthropy. They are inviting non-profits and their boards.

Erin Birch with UW Sumner County shared the following:

- Working to take the ALICE Indicators to the workplace campaign. Concrete ways they can sustain their workforce.

Richard Kennedy shared the following:

- The Kind Bar – It Starts with Us
- The Culture Change Project
- FrameworksInstitute.org

Charley Deal made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m., Tonya Mazzolini seconded.

Submitted by Lisa Cofer, UWTN Secretary