

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 8, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
Patrick O'Connor hosting at Laura Murphy's office

Members Present: Terry Church, Bill Pope, Patrick O'Connor, Laura Murphy, Jim Laukkonen, Nate Kortokrax, Mark Wheeler, Megan Card, Chris Coker

Members Absent: Trevor Zandell, Lenny Lucenko, Janet McClanahan Moody

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:39pm
2. **Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2017 Board Meeting** – Chris motions to approve the minutes, seconded by Terry. Motion carries without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 President appoints nominating committee for the 2017-2018 Board officer positions - Megan appointed Terry, Trevor, Bill, and Lenny to be on the committee.
 - 3.2 Section CLE's – paying for the speakers lunch – A discussion took place. Laura moves to approve paying for the CLE speaker's lunch, seconded by Patrick. The motion carries without objections.
 - 3.3 Northwest Justice Project Plan – Northwest Justice would like comments on their plan and how to get attorneys involved. Megan asked for volunteers to form a small sub-committee to review it and provide comments to Northwest Justice. Terry & Chris volunteered to be on the sub-committee.
 - 3.4 Program for the Annual Meeting & Dinner – A discussion took place. Megan will ask Tye Menser if the Oly Mountain Boys are available to perform again this year. Heather will make updates to the "Honored Members" list on the program.
 - 3.5 Reimbursement for CLE copies to presenter, John Strait – Laura moves to approve reimbursing the presenter, John Strait, for the CLE copies, seconded by Patrick. Motion carries without objections.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Attorney Badge Cards update (Megan) – Megan received a letter from Pam Hartman-Beyer, Administrator at the Thurston County Superior Court. The court is not in favor of providing security badges to Attorneys at this time.
 - 4.2 Health Insurance update (Megan) – A survey was sent to the members. We received 63 Responses. The results are 34 members (54%) said Yes they would be interested in obtaining health insurance through the TCBA if available and affordable and 29 members (46%) said No. 33 members (52.4%) said yes they are interested in obtaining health insurance for their employees through the TCBA if available and affordable and 30 members (47.6%) said No. Megan will follow up with her health insurance provider and will report back at the next meeting.
 - 4.3 Pictures in the Law Library hallway update (Megan) – Fred Gentry asked Megan what is happening with the deceased TCBA members photos on the Law Library wall. A discussion took place. The Board would like to table this until the next budget discussion.
 - 4.4 Judicial Evaluation Survey update (Heather) – An electronic survey was emailed to the members on March 1, 2017. We have received 52 responses so far. The deadline to submit responses is March 31, 2017.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Janet McClanahan Moody) – February Financial Reports – Nate moves to approve the February Financial reports, seconded by Terry. Motion carries without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** - The March CLE luncheon is “US Immigration in 60 minutes”. There may be a Family Law topic for the CLE in April.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) –Judge Dixon, Judge Hirsch, Judge Murphy, Judge Wilson, Judge Skinder, and Judge Lanese attended the meeting between the Bench and TCBA Board on March 2nd. The Bench asked for the TCBA’s support of the new courthouse. The Bench was receptive to having biannual meetings. Megan will follow up with Pam Hartman-Beyer about setting up a meeting between the Bench and Bar members.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Megan, Terry, Laura) – The CLE committee had a great meeting recently. Patrick will talk to TCVLS about taking the lead on a CLE in April. There are some other ideas for future CLE’s for the fall. Mark shared information about a CLE for Paralegals. Megan and Patrick are working on an Ethics CLE. Patrick is working on a Trial Practice CLE.
 - 7.3 Newsletter (Heather) – The March newsletter was mailed to the members on Monday, March 6, 2017. The deadline to submit article and advertisements for the May Legal Brief is May 2, 2017.
8. **Section Reports**
 - 8.1 Family Law (Mike DeWitt) - We had our monthly meeting today, so how about I give the update now. That way I won't forget to do it right before your meeting, which I am prone to do since your meetings happen right before our meetings, when nothing has happened in the family law section for quite some time (so it is not even on my radar to email you). Going forward, I'll email you the updates right after the meetings, if that is okay with you . . . Today we had a good turnout - many attorneys and all four judicial officers (plus a couple of pro tem's). Judge Schaller introduced her draft proposed rule regarding Informal Family Law Trials. Both she and Judge Hirsch have attended training on the topic, and it is being used with much success in other states. The concept is to take the formality out of trial by relaxing the rules of evidence (all evidence is admitted, the judge decides what weight to give it); there is no cross-examination (the judge asks the parties questions); etc. The family law bar was a bit skeptical about it, but we were reminded that it is an optional rule, and it seems to be mostly aimed at the always-burgeoning pro se trial cases. Judge Schaller also talked about the work being with Odyssey to implement case scheduling orders that will assign a case to a particular judge, in keeping with the court's one judge/one family policy. We also had a discussion about whether or not attorneys in DV cases are required to pre-submit their exhibits to the other side. There is no formal rule on this, but the general consensus seemed to be yes, you should, or else risk having the matter continued so opposing counsel can have a reasonable amount of time to review the documents. We have two WSBA representatives in our section - Pat Rawnsley on the Family Law Executive Committee, and Chris Meserve on the BOG. They told us about the WSBA town hall meeting soon (tomorrow, I think) regarding the proposal to expand both the role and scope of the LLLT program - by entering into other areas of law, and by allowing them to appear in court, for two examples. A few other questions were brought up and answered.
 - 8.2 Pro Bono (Terry Church) – TCVLS is having their Fundraiser Breakfast on May 2nd. Megan & Terry are each sponsoring a table if anyone would like to attend.
 - 8.3 Young Lawyers (Jen Doehne) - Megan met with Jen on Monday and discussed the expectations of the Section Chair; Swearing-In Ceremonies, CLE’s, Spotlight for the Legal Brief, and monthly section meetings. There was a section meeting on March 7th.
 - 8.4 Criminal Law – (Patrick/Jim) – The plan is to have their first meeting on April 26, 2017 at noon at the Hotel RL restaurant conference room.

8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Ann Harrie) – The CLE is this Friday. I plan on asking the attendees what day of the month (and week) they would like to meet for the monthly meetings. I am leaning towards a Wednesday on the second or third week of the month. Other CLE ideas include unlawful detainers (both commercial and residential), and someone to talk about the *Hirst* decision and how it may impact water wells in Thurston County. I am still pondering the fourth CLE topic, but would like to have one relating to shellfish growing on tidelands. I am open to suggestions if you hear anything!

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

10.1 The WSBA Board of Governors lunch meeting is on March 9th at Hotel RL in Olympia at noon.

10.2 The WSBA Community Network Event is on March 23rd from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Ramblin' Jacks.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** April 12 at Trevor Zandell's office

12. **Adjourn** 6:53