

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Members Present: Jim Laukkonen, Trevor Zandell, Amy Perlman, Geoff Hulsey, Michael Young, Heidi Raedel Magaro, Matt Huot, Patrick O'Connor, John Kesler III, Wayne Graham, and Bill Pope.

Members Absent: Laura Murphy

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:34 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of October 14, 2020 Board Meeting** Trevor moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 **Raise Advertising in Legal Brief Fees (Jim)** – A discussion took place. Bill moved to increase the cost of advertising in the Legal Brief by 10% across the board and still offer 10% discount for paying a full year of advertising in advance, seconded by John.
 - 3.2 **Broaden Market of advertising in Legal Brief (Jim)** – A discussion took place regarding reaching out to organizations to advertise in the Legal Brief. The organizations to reach out to are Court Reporters, Investigation Services, Professional Guardians, Financial Advisors, Accountants, Realtors, Property Investors, Thurston County Chamber, Rotary, Downtown Business Association, Ignition Interlock companies, Treatment Providers, Bond Companies, Mediation Services from WSBA, other Mediation Organizations. Bill said to add this to the agenda for next month to make sure we are doing something about it. Heather will send the board a new 2021 rate sheet.
 - 3.3 **TCBA Video (Heidi)** – Heidi made a promotional video for the TCBA. She also created a holiday lunch video. Everyone thought the videos are awesome. Heidi also created a new courthouse video. Heidi used Vimeo for the video software. The first 30 days are free. After the first month it's \$50/month. Patrick suggested at future in-person events to start taking pictures and videos.
 - 3.4 **Electronic Legal Brief (Heidi)** – Heidi spent some time exploring an electronic Legal Brief. It can be sent to 2000 people. Benchmark is the website Heidi used. Mailchimp is another option. Jim is open to the idea of exploring an electronic version. John suggested having an option for people when they sign up for a membership to select if they want a paper copy or electronic option. Wayne said if it weren't for the paper copy, his office attorneys wouldn't know what the TCBA is up to. Patrick suggested sending a survey to ask the members what they prefer. Jim suggested just offering the electronic version and see what kind of reception we get from the members. Patrick suggested sending the electronic version and then charging extra for the paper version. Heidi and Heather will work together to prepare the next electronic Legal Brief. Heather will send Heidi the content when received.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 **Amicus Brief update (Trevor and Michael)** – Trevor and Michael will incorporate the suggested changes in the policy. Trevor will send the updated policy to Heather to send to the board to discuss at the December board meeting.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Heidi) – October 2020 Financial Report – Heidi reported the financial situation as of October 31, 2020. Jim, Geoff, Heidi and Heather met again to discuss the 2021 budget. The board made a decision on Saturday to not do any half day CLEs for the foreseeable future, but we will do lunchtime CLEs for \$25 per person. We plan to offer 10 CLEs in 2021. Geoff moved to approve the 2021 budget as discussed, seconded by Amy. The motion carried without objections. Bill moved to approve the October 2020 treasurers report, seconded by Patrick. The motion carried without objections. The board had an executive session to discuss Heather's salary.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Geoff) – Friday, November 13th there will be a lunchtime CLE. Monthly lunches are going to move into lunchtime CLEs during the lunch hour and we will charge \$25 to attend. Heidi has a CLE in the works for December 2nd. The plan is to have 10 lunchtime CLEs in 2021. Jim is going to write a letter as to why we are moving to a paid monthly CLE even though members won't get a lunch out of it. This change is being done so we can continue to serve our members and provide donations and other things to the community organizations that we support.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – The next meeting is tomorrow, November 12 at noon via Zoom. We don't know which judges will be discussing each agenda item yet. We will be thanking and congratulating Judge Hirsch who is retiring and congratulating Sharonda Amamilo who was elected to fill the position 8 position on the Thurston County Superior Court bench. The differences on the Superior Court website did not make the agenda, but Jim will be meeting with Judge Murphy to discuss this item.
 - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Heidi, Patrick, Laura, Geoff, Amy, Matt) – See 6.
 - 7.3 Newsletter (Heather) – The November Legal Brief was mailed last week. The January 2021 Legal Brief will be sent to the members by mid-January. Heather will work with Heidi to create an electronic version of the Legal Brief.
 - 7.4 New Courthouse (Matt) – Matt said there is nothing new to report since the election results are still coming in. The Committee hasn't met again yet. Matt will reach out to the committee to see when they want to meet. If you want to be added to the committee, please let Matt know.
 - 7.5 Rules Committee (Michael) – The committee has not met yet.
 - 7.6 Holiday Lunch (Heidi, Patrick, Bill, Laura, Amy, Geoff, Jim) – The committee has organized for a local restaurant, jean pierre's three16, to provide lunch. The board members will deliver the meals to the members who live/work in incorporated Olympia, Lacey, and Tumwater. Heidi created an Annual meeting and Holiday Lunch video. Heidi will update the video to clarify the food options and will see if she can add the flyer at the end of the video.
8. **Section Reports**
 - 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - We had a very well-attended meeting yesterday. There were over 30 participants. The judicial officers gave us some updates on what to expect in the very near future with calendar changes, additional calendars being added for the upcoming holidays, the transition from conference line to Zoom for all hearings, and Judge Hirsch's retirement. We also discussed the importance of remembering that remote court is still court and that professional dress and demeanor is not only expected, but required. The biggest topic of discussion for family law practitioners is the upcoming law change. The Title 26 chapter on Non-parental Custody is being replaced by a uniform law on minor guardianship. The judicial officers are doing their best to navigate this immense change to the law, how to transition current cases under Title 26 to the new RCW, and how to minimize the impact on litigants. It is going to be a tremendous undertaking with many unfunded mandates (like appointment of counsel for indigent parents and appointment of counsel for children age 12 and over).
 - 8.2 Pro Bono (Geoff Hulsey) – Nothing to add.

- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Brooke Frickleton) - A survey was sent out to the membership to gather more information about what folks are looking for from the YL section going forward. While I received limited responses, those who did respond showed interest in doing a virtual meet-up rather than an in-person gathering. I am planning to put together one for December as a holiday celebration.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Lindsey Trakel & Angela Colauita) - We just finished our November meeting. We had 34 participants and we had a great discussion between local attorneys and Judge Murphy about conducting trials in our county during COVID. We feel confident that our membership got a lot of useful information out of the meeting. We have not planned anything for December and my guess would be that we perhaps come up with something for January or early February.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Heather Burgess) – The RELU section has not met regularly since the initial lockdown in March due to scheduling and availability challenges resulting from the ongoing pandemic. However, I am currently planning three Zoom RELU section meetings for the first part of 2021, to be held on January 26, March 25, and May 18 from 12-1 pm. I anticipate at least two of these meetings will be able to offer free CLE credits. I will send in information about specific programs as well as the CLE forms to request credits as soon as our speakers are confirmed.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Larry Jefferson) – The next meeting is on November 18th from Noon - 1pm. Post-Election Breathing/Blues Discussion. No matter what results you wanted, I think it would be good to discuss our feelings around the past elections and how we will move forward together in the future. I found the following articles/videos interesting and you can check them out for our discussion:
 -James Baldwin - <https://www.villagevoice.com/2018/06/22/james-baldwin-on-being-gay-in-america/>
 -Michelle Obama – Read Michelle Obama’s Powerful Response to the Biden-Harris Win – Glamour Magazine.
 -Van Jones – Reaction to Election – Search YouTube/CNN (you’ll find it)
- For those concerned based on my selection of topics – discussion welcome – this is for all of us. We will also discuss – Finding an additional Co-Chair for our section. Shared leadership is the best leadership. The December is on December 16th, 2020 from Noon – 1 pm. Presentation from J. Denise Diskin the Executive Director of the QLaw Foundation of Washington. She is a frequent speaker on employment discrimination, healthcare coverage for transgender and non-binary people, and LGBTQ access to the legal system. Jim shared that the co-chair had one letter of interest. Jessica Shen at the Prosecutors Office is interested in being the co-chair. Jim will let Jessica know that she is the new co-chair.

9. **Additions to agenda**

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 John announced that his wife is applying for the open Olympia City Council position.
- 10.2 Jim said Happy Veteran’s Day to everyone and Happy Veteran’s Day to the board members who are Veteran’s as well.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** On Zoom or Patrick O’Connor and Geoff Hulsey to host at Geoff’s office on December 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. depending on COVID-19

12. **Adjourn** 7:07 p.m.