

**THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**  
**hosted by John Kesler at John Kesler's Office**

Members Present: Wayne Graham, Marie Docter, Bill Pope, John Kesler III, Jerry Gray, Geoff Hulsey, Melissa Goldmann, Joe Scuderi, and Michael Young.

Members Absent: Angela Colaiuta, Matt Huot, and Brandon Koenig

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:33 p.m.
  
2. **Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2023, Board Meeting** - Melissa has an amendment on 3.3, "This item will be saved for next month since Michael is absent from the meeting." With that amendment, Joe moved to approve the minutes, seconded by John. The motion carried with out objections.
  
3. **New Business**
  - 3.1 President appoints nominating committee for 2023-2024 Officers (Michael) – Michael appointed Wayne, Marie, and himself to be on the nominating committee. The nominating committee will present nominations to the board.
  - 3.2 TCBA Annual Golf Tournament (Heather) – Heather shared that Joe Lynch no longer wants to organize the event and he recommended Greg Rhodes organize it in the future. The board said that would be great if Greg Rhodes wants to do it. Heather will reach out to Joe and let him know.
  
4. **Old Business**
  
5. **Treasurer's Report** (John) – February 2023 Financial Report – John provided a financial report for February 2023. Wayne moved to approve the treasurers report, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections. There was a discussion about the Net Ordinary Income and Net Income lines on the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual statement from Quickbooks. Some Board members had questions about the "% of Budget" figure being reflected as 14,370.16%. John explained our budget reflects an anticipated annual profit of \$50.00, but since a large percentage of our income are Membership Dues and dues payments are typically received early in the year—this particular statement is going to show those high percentages at this time of the year. It should balance out as the year goes on. The entries on the profit and loss statement are correct and there is not anything wrong with the accounting.
  
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (Wayne) – Wayne shared that Judge Buckley will be presenting on *COVID and how it effects the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction* at the March CLE. He's working on getting Sam Meyer & Martin Meyer for April and Steve Bean is presenting in June. Bill proposed bringing the evaluation forms to the next board meeting to review.
  
7. **Committee Reports**
  - 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Michael said the meeting is on May 17, 2023. Michael reached out to the District and Municipal Court judges and they are also available to attend. The TCBA will be providing lunch at the event again.
  - 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Geoff, Matt, Angela) – Bill shared that the committee met and had a

- good meeting. Melissa shared that she talked to Pat Rawnsley and he agreed to present on *Rules of Evidence* and will ask Jennifer Johnson to present with him. Wayne is working on a Diversity & Inclusion CLE and is going to ask Justice Gonzalez if he will present along with Judge Zipp. Bill will follow up with the other members who attended the CLE meeting.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie shared that she talked to Patrick and asked how this committee normally works. He said there used to be a group at Superior Court and they’d meet monthly, but since COVID they have had a lot of turn over at the courts and it hasn’t started up again. Marie asked Patrick to meet to discuss the steps going forward.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Patrick, Geoff, Michael, Melissa, Lindsey Trakel, Marie) – John said they will meet on March 15 at 7:15 a.m., but he hasn’t heard anything else. John will follow up with Judge Wilson.
- 7.5 Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Heather, Matt, Brandon, John) – John shared that there will be no trivia at the event this year. Heather is looking into the menu options. We had a discussion at the planning committee meeting to have an option for people to come for happy hour and then leave before dinner, but the committee decided against that option. Michael suggested we send a save the date email to the members.
- 7.6 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Geoff & Melissa) – Melissa shared that the preliminary round is on April 20, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at Thurston County Superior Court. Judge Schaller is going to be a judge during the event along with Melissa, Geoff, and Marie. The final round is on May 2, 2023, during the West Olympia Rotary Club lunch meeting.
- 7.7 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Geoff, Joe, Wayne) – No report.
- 7.8 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – No report.
- 7.9 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather & Geoff) – Heather shared that the March Legal Brief was emailed to the members on March 6. She shared she had a couple members request a paper version of the Legal Brief.
- 7.10 Courthouse Badges (Wayne, Brandon, Matt) – Wayne shared that Ken Blanford from Pierce County said they have had badges in Pierce County for 20 years. It’s their main source of revenue for the Pierce County Bar Association and was brought up originally by the Pierce County Court. All of the money goes to the Pierce County Bar Association. It’s \$250 to join the bar, and then \$50 for the badge, but there is a concern that with technology not as many attorneys may want to buy the badge anymore since less attorneys go to court. Pierce County does a security clearance/background check for \$11. Wayne said it’s worth having that conversation again with the current judges at Thurston County.
- 7.11 Judicial Evaluation Survey (Michael, Jerry, Wayne) – Michael shared that the survey was emailed to the members. Responses are due by March 22, 2023.

## 8. Section Reports

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) - At our February meeting, we had a guest speaker, Valerie Waterland, MS, LMFT, AAC, who did a 20-minute presentation on the state of domestic violence intervention treatment (DVIT) in Washington. It was a widely attended meeting and I really think the presentation was informative for the practitioners and the bench. The rest of the meeting was very quick. We discussed the senate bills that will have an impact on the practice of family law, and we discussed the logistics of the Family Law MidYear Conference that is coming up this summer. Our March meeting will be to attend the lunchtime education CLE presentation with Commissioner Kortokrax and Chuck Szurszewski on “Settlement Conferences.” The CLE was scheduled for the same time as the family law section meeting, so I made the executive decision (with the encouragement of Commissioner Kortokrax) to have the CLE take the place of the March meeting. For April, I am hoping to arrange another guest speaker, Dr. Joyce Gilbert, to do a presentation on child abuse and “sentinel injuries.” April is Child Abuse Prevention month.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – Joe shared that the TCVLS has hired a new Director to replace Rachael Langen Lundmark who is retiring at the end of March. She will start in a couple

weeks. There will be a retirement celebration for Rachael, but a date has not been set yet. Michael said TCVLS has restarted their in-person clinics at the Family Support Center on the Westside.

- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr) - Our next meeting will be the third Wednesday in March. March 15. We had a few people show up to the last meeting! We discussed more networking opportunities. Brandon Koenig had reached out regarding planning a possible joint event as well.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Olivia Zhou & Jenna Storm Norden) – Wayne said he’s coordinating a Criminal Law section meeting in late March or early April.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Trevor Zandell) – No report.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Ivy Rose-Kramer & Kelsey Gasseling) – For this month, we’re hosting a lunch-time discussion regarding gender identity and how identity is addressed in the courtroom. Please join us on Zoom, March 22 at 12:00 p.m. Two excerpts to read from Redefining Realness, by Janet Mock, are chapters 8 and 14. Please give these a read when you have some time, they are relatively short chapters. We will use this as a jumping-off point for our discussion. If you want to watch a short video by the Janet Mock (not required), please see the following hyperlink: Janet Mock, 2020: <https://youtu.be/GltvzmeHwiM>.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Bill thanked John for hosting and providing food.
- 9.2 Bill shared that the Judicial survey – he reached out to a couple attorneys to remind them to complete the survey and share their thoughts constructively. Bill asked that a reminder is emailed to the members to remind people to complete the survey. Suggestion for next survey is to have a comment section that is not directed at a specific judge.

10. **Announcements**

- 11. **Date/location of next meeting:** April 12, 2023, hosted by Marie Docter & Jerry Gray at John Kesler’s office
- 12. **Adjourn** 6:55 p.m.