

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Angela Colaiuta and Joe Scuderi at John Kesler's Office

Members Present: Wayne Graham, Bill Pope, Jerry Gray, Michael Young, Melissa Goldmann, Rosemary Fitzgerald, Joe Scuderi, Brandon Koenig, Matt Huot, Angela Colaiuta, Marie Docter, and John Kesler III.

Members Absent:

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:30 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of January 10, 2024, Board Meeting** - Joe moved to approve, seconded by Matt. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 Board Member (Melissa) – Jeff Carr reached out to Melissa and asked about opportunities serving on the board. Melissa will let him know that there may be some openings on the board coming up and that elections are in May at the annual meeting.
 - 3.2 Offering CLEs online like KCBA (Heather) – Heather shared that a previous member reached out and asked if the TCBA records our CLEs. Wayne said to let the previous member know that we are constantly looking at ways to improve our CLE programs for our Bar Association members but, unfortunately, we do not have the same resources as the King County Bar Association given the size of their membership and the significantly higher dues for their Association. As our CLE programs continue to develop, we will strive to continue looking at ways to connect with our members.
 - 3.3 President Appoints Nominating Committee for 2024-2025 Officers (Wayne) – Wayne asked the board if anyone was planning on leaving the board in May. Heather shared that the positions 2, 4, and 6 are up for election at the annual meeting in May. Matt is in position 2 and he indicated he will be leaving his position on the board in May. Joe is in position 4 and he said he will be running for reelection in May. Marie is in position 6 and she said she will be running for reelection in May. Wayne and John will form a nominating committee to discuss the officer positions.
 - 3.4 Bigelow Award Nomination Form (Heather) – Heather distributed the form to the board for their review. The board did not have any changes to the form. Heather will send out the form to the members.
 - 3.5 Summer BBQ Venue and Dates (Heather) – Tumwater Historical Park Shelter is \$50- July 29, 30 & 31 from 3-8pm and August 1, 2, 12, 13, 14, 16, 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30 from 5-8pm. Who wants to be on the planning committee? Heather will reserve August 1, 2024, at Tumwater Historical Park. Wayne and Jerry volunteered to be on the planning committee.
 - 3.6 Annual Book Review by Accountant (Heather) – Heather said due to an issue with the email, the board did not receive the Annual Book Review by our Accountant Christine Garst, so we will discuss this at the March meeting.
4. **Old Business** - No old business was discussed.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – January 2024 Financial Report – Brandon shared a financial report. Wayne asked if anyone has complained about the increase in membership dues and no one said they heard any complaints. Joe moved to approve the financial report, seconded by Bill. The motion carried without objections.

6. **Monthly Luncheon Update** (John) – John shared that the February CLE will be an Ethics CLE presented by two young lawyers, Peter Lindgren and Devin Kohr. John said he is looking for a few more young lawyers to help present. Rosemary said there are some young lawyers in her office that may be able to present. John shared that Jon Tunheim will be presenting on HOPE in March and Carrie Graf at NW Justice will be presenting on Landlord/Tenant in April.

7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – Wayne will reach out to the Chief and set up a date for the next meeting.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Matt, Wayne, Angela) – Wayne said he met with Judge Zipp to discuss the March 8 DEI CLE. Chief Justice González will speak the first hour, then Judge Glasgow will speak, followed by Judge Zipp and Judge Price. There is a video on implicit bias that we may show that takes 20 minutes. I am working on a panel that would have attorneys from the state, civil and private practice on it. Marie said she contacted Celia Rivera who said Ronda Sargent might be interested in being on the panel. Judge Zipp asked Wayne to moderate the panel. Wayne said Joe Jackson will speak for the last 30 minutes about hot topic issues with GR37 and the Court of Appeals. Wayne said he would like to invite all of the surrounding counties to attend the CLE in addition to inviting Kittitas County Bar Association and Pierce County Bar Association who reached out to him already.
Wayne said that Trevor reached out to him to discuss the section CLE process. After discussion, the board wants the section chairs/co-chairs to continue to submit the CLE information to the board for review at least 30 days in advance of the CLE, so the board can determine if there are any conflicts with other CLEs being planned and if there are any conflicts with the dates.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – Marie said Matt Morbello sent an email to the TCBA, which was then forwarded to the members about comments on rules. There is more to come on this.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Michael, Melissa, Marie) – John said he emailed Judge Skinder and he hasn't heard back yet. He asked for a meeting in late February/early March to talk about court rules, prioritizing jury trials over bench trials, construction updates, and badges.
- 7.5 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Wayne) – Brandon shared that he wasn't available in January, but Jerry and John volunteered to go. They went two times and only one other attorney came. Brandon suggested we should do more outdoor activities, like a bike ride. Michael said he will help plan out a beginner bike route. Joe suggested a dog event/meet up at a dog park. Wayne said Joe should do a wine tasting event. Brandon will send an email to the committee to meet up after work in the next month or two to discuss further.
- 7.6 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – Wayne said our half day CLEs could bring in more members if we offer a price that includes membership. We will talk about this next year.
- 7.7 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Heather said the next Legal Brief will be going out in March. The advertisements and articles are due on February 21st.
- 7.8 Courthouse Badges (Wayne, Brandon, Matt) – Nothing to report.
- 7.9 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Angela, Joe, John, Chris Meserve) – Michael shared that the committee is evaluating the evaluations. A draft survey was sent to the board today. Michael will work with Heather set up the survey. Michael said the committee will meet with Judge Skinder, Judge Meyer, Commissioner Wohl, Judge Glasgow, Judge Nogueira, and Judge Lanese in early March. Michael asked the committee members to email him dates that work for them to meet.
- 7.10 Law Library (Michael & Marie) – Michael and Marie had a quarterly meeting in January where the Bylaws were adopted and they looked at the financials. There is currently about

\$400,000 in the account. Committee member Matt Morbello cancelled some subscriptions that were piling up so that will save some money. They are looking for feedback from stakeholders about what they want this library to be. Timberland Library has offered space for online access. We reached out to TCVLS, we but haven't heard back yet. Marie said we haven't heard back from anyone after the last advertisement we put in the Legal Brief. We will publish that advertisement again in March. Joe said it would be helpful to have computer terminals available to be able to search. Michael said to add this to the agenda for the annual meeting. A portion of the filing fees goes to the Law Library.

- 7.11 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie and Melissa) – Wayne said Steve Henderson was disappointed the TCBA is not prize money this year. Steve Henderson said he and Judge Berschauer will be offering the prize money this year. Marie and Melissa will help with the topic this year on behalf of the TCBA. Marie is going to be researching Trump not being on the ballot as a possible topic. Heather said we need to be getting this out to the schools by late February.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – No report.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – Joe said they are still called TCVLS and that they haven't changed their name yet.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – John said Peter went to the Young Lawyer lunch but only 1 person came.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Rosemary Fitzgerald & Diana Anderson) – Rosemary said she and Angela are working on a replacement co-chair since Diana will be leaving as co-chair.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Trevor Zandell) – We had our CLE on municipal code enforcement on Jan. 25. It was a nice event and pretty well attended with about 20 attorneys. I now need to plan our spring meeting and CLE and will be working on that next.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Ivy Rose-Kramer & Kelsey Gasseling) - Wayne said that Ivy Rose-Kramer has a new position in Pierce County, so will no longer be the co-chair. Angela said she will reach out to Isaac Fortunato to see if he is interested in being the co-chair.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 TCBA Membership (Heather) – Heather asked everyone to please renew their membership.

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 Thank you to Joe and Angela for providing the pizza and drinks tonight.
- 10.2 Bill said great job to John on presenting the CLE on January 26.

- 11. **Date/location of next meeting:** March 13, 2024, hosted by Bill Pope and Melissa Goldmann at John Kesler's office

- 12. **Adjourn** 7:10 p.m.