

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by John Kesler and Matt Huot at John Kesler's Office

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

Members Absent:

Others Present: Heather Ligtenberg

1. **Call to order** 5:31 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of April 10, 2024, Board Meeting** – Melissa moved to approve, seconded by Joe. The motion carried without objections.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 **MailPoet Emails (Heather)** - Heather shared that she'd like to use the Mailpoet software to create flyers that are more up to date than just emailing the event information on an email to the members. The cost is \$11 a month or \$114 per year. We can send up to 5,000 emails a month for that price. The cost to have Jill Carter, our IT person, set it up for us is \$50-\$100. Bill moved to approve the additional charge, seconded by Melissa. The motion carried without objections.
 - 3.2 **Board Member Vacancy (Wayne)** – A discussion took place. Wayne will reach out to both candidates tomorrow morning to confirm they are both still interested and let them know what the process is since this is a contested race for the open position. If they both would like to proceed with the process, Wayne will ask Heather to send the letters of interest and bios to the association and let the members know they have the opportunity to attend the vote portion of the meeting to vote on the two candidates. The two candidates will have the opportunity to give a brief speech at the annual meeting.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 **Annual Meeting Agenda (Heather)** – Heather shared the agenda for the Annual Meeting and asked if anyone had any changes or edits to it. Melissa said to check the font type on the agenda.
5. **Treasurer's Report (Brandon)** – April 2024 Financial Report – Brandon shared the financial report. Joe moved to approve, seconded by Jerry. The motion carried without objections.
6. **Monthly Luncheon Update (John)** – John said he is done organizing the CLE luncheons now and that Marie will take over organizing them for the rest of 2024. Marie said a half day Evidence CLE will be on September 27, October 25 will be Estate Planning, and on November 22 Joe Panesko from AAG's office will present on a case he did with the City of Sammamish vs. Titcomb. In January we could do a CLE honoring Judge Doran and in the spring another Diversity, Equity and Inclusion CLE, either an hour or half day.
7. **Committee Reports**
 - 7.1 **Bench/Bar (President) – Date (Wayne) & Food (Heather)** - Wayne said June 12 or 26 are possible dates for the meeting. After discussion, the board selected June 26. We will provide

- lunch. Heather said the sandwiches have changed at Costco and they no longer have croissant sandwiches available. The board suggested Heather calls Meconi's and asks for the price of sandwiches, and also Safeway. We can still buy the water and chips at Costco. Heather is not available for the June 26 meeting, but Wayne volunteered to pick up the sandwiches, water and chips.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Matt, Wayne, Angela, Melissa) – September 27 Half Day CLE Food price (Heather) – Heather shared that the price of food for the September 27 half day CLE is \$12 per person at Tugboat Annie's. Rosemary said she had recently been to an event at New Market Skills Center and it was great and the students provided the food. Wayne said he has a contact at New Market and will share it with Heather so she can find out what their prices are.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie) – The deadline to submit comments was today regarding Local Rule 16. They are going to have a meeting regarding motions and limine to confer the requirements. They have already decided they are going to do it. The ABA Op-Ed opinion 511 came out recently. It affects RPC 5.6. The question is to what extent can you ask a question and disclose information without getting consent from your client. If it's general information that's not a problem, but the minute you start giving details about your client's case then you have to have the client authorize you to do that. Marie suggested we put something in the Legal Brief about it. Marie will draft something to include in the May Legal Brief.
- 7.4 Communicating with the Court about court administration (John, Melissa, Marie) – No update.
- 7.5 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Wayne) – Brandon said we have the upcoming bike ride this Saturday, May 11 at 10:30 a.m. at Dancing Goat Tasting Room. We currently have 10 RSVPs. We do not have Trivia planned in May, but we will start again in June. He'd like to share the duty of hosting Trivia Night with the new board member. Brandon said he will help BBQ at the annual summer BBQ on August 1.
- 7.6 How to Increase Membership Committee (Matt & Michael) – Wayne said he and Melissa talked about maybe offering a free first lunch to welcome the new attorneys at the swearing in ceremony. The TCBA President can announce it during the swearing in ceremonies.
- 7.7 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Heather said the articles and advertisements for the May Legal Brief are due by May 15. The board would like to include the names of the people who donated money for the Law Day Speech Contest along with the photo and article about the event. Michael volunteered to do the IN RE Spotlight for the September Legal Brief.
- 7.8 Courthouse Badges (Wayne, Brandon, Matt) – No report.
- 7.9 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Angela, Joe, John, Chris Meserve) – Michael sent an email to the judges to let them know what the TCBA Board of Directors decided.
- 7.10 Law Library (Michael & Marie) – Marie said they met on April 22. NW Justice Project also attended the meeting. They talked about providing computers at three locations that would include printers and offer 40 pages of free printing. Marie said she will ask at the next meeting if donated items from previous judges, like Judge Doran, can be displayed somewhere in the Law Library. Are there other places where we can display the donated historical legal memorabilia? Wayne asked about the Bigelow House and what our relationship is with them. Maybe we can display the memorabilia there? Melissa said her vision was to display the memorabilia on the wall at the courthouse.
- 7.11 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie and Melissa) – Melissa said the preliminary round at the courthouse went very well. We had 13 students signed up, but three students didn't show up. Marie said the West Olympia Rotary Club did a great job judging during the final round. The final round was well attended and the students did a great job presenting their speeches. Wayne said he hopes this is a focus budget item for next year. Marie said she will reach out to the high school teachers next year and said we should adjust the calendar to start working

on this in October.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – No report.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Joe Scuderi) – Joe said TCVLS changed their name to Sound Legal Aid. SLA reached out today to him today and asked if he could make an announcement at the TCBA Annual Meeting & Dinner about their need for more volunteers. Heather will reach out to Sandra Miller to ask for a brief announcement that Wayne can share at the annual meeting. Joe said the TCVLS fundraiser breakfast went well.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – Wayne said they had a great swearing in for three new attorneys. Judge Egeler did a great job.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Rosemary Fitzgerald & Angela Coliauta) – Rosemary and Angela said they are talking about organizing a Therapeutic Court informational meeting. They need to look at dates. Wayne is the liaison for Trueblood and will share the information with Rosemary and Angela. Angela said they could provide that information broadly. Marie suggested we do this as a lunchtime CLE in February.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Trevor Zandell) – I’m currently working with Nicole Floyd, the principal planner for the City of Olympia, to put on a CLE regarding a land use/planning topic. We hope to hold the course in June. Right now, Nicole is working on topics and a course outline for me. When I get that, we will contact you to facilitate getting WSBA approval for CLE credit.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Kelsey Gasseling) – No report.

9. **Additions to agenda**

- 9.1 Heather shared that she will be on vacation from June 21-July 14, 2024.
- 9.2 Heather and the board thanked Matt for his service on the board.
- 9.3 Michael said the Government Lawyers Bar Association annual meeting and CLE is on May 15. The annual membership dues is \$10 and you get free CLEs and food.

10. **Announcements**

- 10.1 Marie said we need to work on revising election section in the Bylaws.
- 10.2 Wayne said he’s been proud to be a part of this group!
- 10.3 Bill and everyone thanked John and Matt for hosting tonight.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** September 11, 2024, hosted by Wayne Graham and Brandon Koenig at John’s Office.

12. **Adjourn** 7:23 p.m.