

THURSTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
hosted by Rosemary Fitzgerald and Michael Young at John Kesler's Office

Members Present: Marie Docter, Jerry Gray, Michael Young, Wayne Graham, John Kesler III, Melissa Goldmann, and Brandon Koenig, Jenna Norden

Members Absent: Jeffrey Carr, Rosemary Fitzgerald, Bill Pope, Joe Scuderi

1. **Call to order:** 5:34 p.m.
2. **Approval of Minutes of January 14, 2026, Board Meeting** – No discussion. Brandon moved, Wayne seconded to approved; passed unanimously.
3. **New Business**
 - 3.1 WSBA Local Hero Award Nominations (Marie). There were several nominations, formal and informal. Bill was nominated but per bylaws, cannot be considered as he is a TCBA board member. Also, only formal nominations may be considered. Brandon moved to award to Trevor, seconded by Michael. Vote was unanimously to approve Trevor Zandell as this year's Local Hero.
 - 3.2 President Appoints Nominating Committee for 2026-2027 Officers (Marie) – Jerry, John, Brandon and Marie all agreed to be on the committee. Michael's term is ending and he will not "re-up" (though his position is not an officer position). Marie noted the AG's office wants to have a representative on the board.
 - 3.3 Annual Book Review (Heather) - Heather met with the TCBA accountant, Christine Garst, who completed the annual book review. See the attached report. Everyone had a chance to review. There did not seem to be any issues and for the most part it looked great. This is for informational purposes and no formal action of the board needs to take place.
 - 3.4 LISO Fundraiser Flyer Request to Distribute (Marie) – Marie explained the fundraising event. Discussion by the board; there is no downside to circulating it and approved doing so.
4. **Old Business**
 - 4.1 Section Chairs Policy (Michael) – Discussion re the addition of "written" approval to the last sentence, and also adding language that section chairs may not represent in their capacity as section chair to the public without authorization of the board. Michael will make the changes and re-submit it, then after the board approves, Heather will disseminate to the membership. Wayne moved to make the changes, Jerry seconded, and it passed unanimously. Michael read suggested changes to non-attorney membership changes. Discussion re the same to allow individuals, rather than an entity, to join the TCBA. Jenna moved to approve, Brandon seconded. Passed unanimously.
 - 4.2 Strengthening Connection with Sound Legal Aid (Marie) – The paralegal and pre-law program at SPSCC is ending, which she learned from Matt Morbello. Brief discussion of how this may affect the school and the legal community. Marie will be in touch with Matt to gather more information.
 - 4.3 Letter to the Court (John) – tabled; John has things in the works and will present later.
 - 4.4 Summer BBQ – August 20 at Tumwater Historical Park at 5:00 p.m. – Mark your calendars! – Heather will start to announce via emails and Legal Brief.
5. **Treasurer's Report** (Brandon) – January 2026 Financial Report – Brandon gave report, providing for income and expenses, etc. \$6,377 income, minus expenses, results in net \$3,774.66. \$37,900

appx – most of that is in checking. He will be in touch with bank to see when the CD money is getting moved. Discussion by board re certain expenses. Motion to approve by John, seconded by Jerry. No more discussion, approved unanimously.

6. **Monthly Luncheon Update (Jerry)** – Trevor's CLE went well – John introduced the speaker. It was a lively CLE with lots of engagement and questions from attendees.

7. **Committee Reports**

- 7.1 Bench/Bar (President) – no report.
- 7.2 CLE (Bill, Brandon, Wayne, Melissa, Jeffrey) – Wayne is working on an educational criminal one-hour lunch CLE re early intervention policies on felony level. Jenna believes there will be decent attendance from public and private attorneys.
- 7.3 Rules Committee (Marie and Jerry) – Marie: no report.
- 7.4 Social Events Committee (Brandon (Chair), Heather, Joe, Jenna, Jeffrey, Wayne, Jerry) – D&D Game Night (Mike DeWitt) – Michael (Young), inspired by another organization's publication – suggested something like a "lawyers vs. doctors vs. dentists" trivia night or something.
- 7.5 Newsletter & Marketing (Heather) – Marie: Judge Amamilo will be writing an article.
- 7.6 Judicial Evaluation Survey & Bylaws Committee (Michael, Wayne, Joe, John, Jenna, Chris Meserve) – Bylaws changes for membership for organizations, paralegals, office staff – see above at 4.1.
- 7.7 Law Library (Michael and Marie) – Michael – there is still a lot of money in the law library budget that comes from filing fees; the Westlaw kiosks are getting use, they may be expanded. The intern staff possibility may dry up due to the closure of the SPSCC paralegal program. Melissa noted the security staff are receiving the brunt of the public's ire from the clerk's office being closed. Discussion re varying views on scheduling/motions in limine for civil vs. criminal dockets. Wayne suggested we set up another meeting with the judges. Marie will reach out for a possible future meeting.
- 7.8 Law Day Speech Contest (Marie, Melissa, Rosemary, Jeffrey) – Discussion re topic (treason) and question selection. Melissa will edit and send to Heather for dissemination to schools.
- 7.9 New Courthouse (Marie) – No new info.
- 7.10 Bigelow House & Community Connections (Marie) – no report.
- 7.11 Annual Meeting & Dinner (Heather) – tabled.
- 7.12 County Charter (Michael) – tabled.

8. **Section Reports**

- 8.1 Family Law (Meredith Gerhart) – No report from Meredith but the last family law section meeting was well attended and there was discussion re changes to courthouse policies, docket schedules, etc.
- 8.2 Pro Bono (Jenna Norden) – Jenna said Sound Legal Aid hired a program development manager to try and provide funding sustainability in the future. They are having a Happy Hour in part to commemorate Stacy on Feb. 28 4:30-7:00 p.m. John said there are difficulties signing up to volunteer on their website.
- 8.3 Young Lawyers (Devin Kohr & Peter Lindgren) – No report from section chair.
- 8.4 Criminal Law (Rosemary Fitzgerald & Jenna Norden) – Jenna and Wayne are working on a diversion presentation CLE, nontraditional resolutions to fully inform everyone in the community of the programs that are available. The county commissioners appear to be on board with the grants for the programs and Wayne wants to secure that that funding remains available in the future.
- 8.5 Real Estate, Land Use, and Environmental Law (Kelly Wood) – No report from section chair.
- 8.6 Diversity and Inclusion (Susan Pai) – No report from section chair.

9. **Additions to agenda**

9.1 The Bigelow plaque in the main campus law library meeting room is last dated with the recipient in 2017; it needs to be updated. Wayne will abscond with the plaque, secret it away from the courthouse, and get the tags updated through 2025.

10. **Announcements** – Melissa, on Bill's behalf, thanked Michael and Rosemary for providing food and wine.

11. **Date/location of next meeting:** March 11, 2026, hosted by Bill Pope and Melissa Goldmann at John's Office

12. **Adjourn** - 6:40 p.m.