

MINUTES OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

Tacoma Harvester, 29 North Tacoma Avenue

7:15 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by President Dawn Farina.

PRESENT

President:	Dawn Farina
Vice President :	John R. Christensen
Secretary-Treasurer:	Matthew H. Thomas
Trustee:	Dwayne L. Christopher
Trustee:	Steven O. Merrival
Trustee:	Heidi Wachter
Trustee:	Wendy E. Zicht
Trustee:	T. Diane Clarkson
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison:	Judge Ronald Culpepper
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Stephanie Arend
Tacoma Municipal Court Judicial Liaison:	Presiding Judge Elizabeth E. Verhey
Young Lawyers Section President:	Russell A. Knight
Family Law Section:	Kevin Rundle
Criminal Law Section:	Maureen Goodman
WSBA Liaison/Governor:	Keith Black
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Thomas Felnagle
Pierce County Superior Court Commissioner:	Commissioner Diana L. Kiesel
Collaborative Law Liaison:	Lynn Johnson
Executive Director:	Kit Kasner

ABSENT

Immediate Past President:	Stephanie L. Bloomfield
Trustee:	Clay Selby
District Court Liaison:	Presiding Judge Margaret Vail Ross
Pierce County Minority Bar Liaison:	Sarah L. Lee
WA Women Lawyers Liaison:	Brittany Mahugh

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 a.m. once a quorum was present.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the September 2014 minutes.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President's Report – Dawn Farina

Dawn said the TPCBA Bar Convention was a huge hit and thanked the sponsors. Dawn announced that next year's bar convention would be at Skamania. Dawn also mentioned that she had mailed a letter to the WSBA in opposition to the proposal to eliminate the live CLE requirement. Dawn announced that we are still working on creating the new website and that it was going to be an exciting change. Dawn encouraged members to attend the 6th Annual Tacoma Breakfast Lawyers Helping Hungry Children. Dawn said to let her know if you want to join a bar association table of eight. Congressman Derek Kilmer will be the speaker. Dawn said a number of attorneys had attended the NW Leadership Foundation's Backyard Barbecue, which raised money to send students to college.

Vice President's Report – John Christensen

John discussed recommended Judicial Qualification Committee (JQC) Proposed By-Law Amendments:

Section IV. Records: Adding language to clarify that records will be destroyed one week after being shown to the candidate and appointing authority or being announced in a press release in case of election.

Section V. Information to Candidates Seeking Evaluation: The word "**regulations**" is changed to "**procedures**."

Section VI. Questionnaire: The word "**adopt**" is added to the phrase "The Committee shall prepare **or adopt** a questionnaire . . ."

Section XIV. Length of Rating: Deleting the phrase "**The rating is transferable to judicial positions of similar jurisdictional level, i.e.**" and adding language clarifying that the rating is good for only the judicial position for which the candidate sought a rating and that a "**candidate shall not be re-evaluated by the Committee for the same judicial position within two years of the prior rating.**"

Section XX. Method for Advising Candidates of their Rating: Adding language that the candidate shall be advised of the rating prior to "**disclosure to the appointing authority in the case of an appointment process or [any press release] . . . in the case of election.**"

Section XXI. Publication or Distribution of the Results: Adding language that, at the candidate's request, the JQC Chair shall disclose prior ratings for the same position to the appointing authority. Also, adding language that all of a candidate's previous ratings for the same position during the last four years shall be disclosed in a TPCBA President's press release when a candidate seeks election to the same position.

Following John's presentation, the Board voted to approve the amendments.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report– Matthew Thomas

Matt reported that as of September 30, 2014, the TPCBA had spend \$373,915.69 and had revenues of \$362,104.11

REPORTS OF THE LIAISONS/COMMITTEES/SECTIONS

WSBA BOG Liaison Report - Keith Black

Keith discussed the WSBA September dinner to honor outgoing officers. Keith mentioned that Pierce County has had three recent past presidents: Dale Carlisle, Sal Mungia, and Patrick Palace. Keith said that the WSBA gave out awards and that Judge Riehl of Kitsap County received

the Outstanding Judge Award. Keith also mentioned the coming dues increase, noting that the WSBA is currently digging into its reserve funds to cover costs. Keith said that he will be on the Board of Governors' Legislative Committee. Keith also discussed the two year-long governance task force project. Relating to this project, Keith gave a brief history of the WSBA and explained that WSBA was once a voluntary association. However, over time, the WSBA has lost more and more of its ability to self-govern itself. Keith mentioned that there is a separation of powers issue, and the Washington Supreme Court and the legislature have sought to exert control over the WSBA. Keith also mentioned that proposed elimination of the live CLE requirement was still under debate.

Judicial Liaison Superior Court – Judge Ronald Culpepper

Judge Culpepper announced the retirement parties for Judge Felnagle on November 7 (at Tacoma Yacht Club) and Judge McCarthy on November 21 (at the Swiss). Judge Culpepper said that the judges spoke to the Tacoma City Council about the city's plan to issue parking tickets to jurors who fail to pay for parking. The City Council did not say whether they would allow an exception for jurors. Judge Culpepper and Judge Arend also discussed that the judges have planned an 18 month rotation and they have projected out a schedule for the next nine years. Judge Culpepper mentioned that a new county building is going to be built where Puget Sound Hospital is located. Judge Culpepper predicted that Remann Hall would be sold and the facilities moved to a new location. Judge Culpepper said that the Court has a grant to start a felony mental health court. Judge Culpepper also mentioned that the Court's retreat went well and they had a good discussion of issues.

Judicial Liaison Tacoma Municipal Court – Judge Elizabeth Verhey

Judge Verhey said that the Court is working on its budget. Judge Verhey mentioned the flyer for Judge Emery's retirement party and invited folks to stop by.

Young Lawyers Section – Russell Knight

Russell reported that the recent federal/state new attorney swearing in at the Federal Courthouse at Union Station consisted mostly of a local Pierce County crowd. Russell said that the CLE for new lawyers went well. The CLE topics were 1) how to practice in Pierce County; and 2) an overview of practice areas. Dawn mentioned that several of the talks were very good.

Family Law Section – Kevin Rundle for Sophia Palmer

Kevin announced that the Love Stinks CLE was scheduled for the coming Friday.

Criminal Law Section – Maureen Goodman

Maureen said the bar convention was held at a beautiful and relaxing venue. Maureen noted that there were not enough members of the defense bar present.

Diversity Committee – Dwayne Christopher

Dwayne announced that the committee would be presenting a six credit CLE in February or March. The topic will be Institutional Racism and will include a presentation by the Chief of Staff for the Seattle City Attorney's Office. Dwayne mentioned that the committee is also looking for a non-profit to support.

Collaborative Law – Lynn Johnson

Lynn announced she will be attending the International Academy of Collaborative Law, the following day, as president of the local board. Lynn said they hope to gain more tools through this exchange. Trustee Wendy Zicht mentioned that King County is planning a training for civil practice lawyers; there will be 12 seminars, which are free if you are a member.

Mentorship Committee – Wendy Zicht

Wendy announced that the committee had met a week ago. They are seeking experienced lawyers (10 years or more) who will mentor in their field of practice. Wendy had 22 lawyers who responded to their email requesting volunteers.

Minority Bar Association – Diane Clarkson for Sarah Lee

Diane announced that there would be a Youth and Law Forum Saturday at 9:00 a.m. Diane also mentioned that she had attended the bar convention and had a great time. Diane said the Bar needs to work to get more members of DAC and more minorities to attend. Diane noted that there is such a wealth of diversity out there.

ADJOURNED

Following the committee reports, the meeting was adjourned.