

MINUTES OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, January 20, 2015

Tacoma Harvester, 29 North Tacoma Avenue

7:15 a.m.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Dawn Farina.

PRESENT

President:	Dawn Farina
Vice President :	John R. Christensen
Secretary-Treasurer:	Matthew H. Thomas
Immediate Past President:	Stephanie L. Bloomfield
Trustee:	T. Diane Clarkson
Trustee:	Steven O. Merrival
Trustee:	Clay Selby
Trustee:	Wendy E. Zicht
Family Law Section Liaison:	Sophia Palmer
Pierce County Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Presiding Judge Frank Cuthbertson
Pierce County Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Stephanie Arend
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison:	Judge Ronald Culpepper
Pierce County Superior Court Commissioner:	Commissioner Diana L. Kiesel
Tacoma Municipal Court Judicial Liaison:	Presiding Judge Elizabeth E. Verhey
WSBA Liaison/Governor:	Keith Black
Young Lawyers Section President:	Lindsay Camandona
Criminal Law Section:	Michael Schwartz
WA Women Lawyers Liaison:	Brittany Mahugh
Collaborative Law Liaison:	Lynn Johnson
Executive Director:	Kit Kasner

ABSENT

Trustee:	Dwayne L. Christopher
Trustee:	Heidi Wachter
Pierce County Minority Bar Liaison:	Sarah L. Lee
District Court Liaison:	Presiding Judge Margaret Vail Ross

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER MINUTES

The Board voted to approve the December minutes.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President's Report – Dawn Farina

- a) **TPCBA Ballot:** Dawn announced that the election ballot for TPCBA position was sent to members. Results would be tabulated on January 23 at 4:00 p.m.
- b) **Lincoln Day – Bertha Snell Award:** Dawn explained that the Bertha Snell Award is awarded to someone who has overcome obstacles in their lifetime. Dawn encouraged everyone to think about nominees and to get them to her.
- c) **Website:** Dawn, Kit, and Laurie have been working on the new web site which is scheduled to go live at the end of January or in February. Dawn urged board members to send committee photographs.

Vice-President’s Report—John Christensen

Moranco & Associates Proposal: John talked briefly about Moranco’s proposal. John noted that in 2011 the Board of Trustees voted down Moranco’s proposal. Since then, Moranco has worked with the Washington Trial Lawyers and Defense Lawyers. John explained that, similar to our Lincoln Day sponsors, Moranco collects money and then funds things for these bar organizations. Stephanie noted that the amount of the donation seemed to be tied to the premium earned by Moranco. John asked members whether they favored having a Moranco representative come to address the BOT. Steve Merrival expressed his concern that this proposal would essentially make the TPCBA an insurance company. Steve suggested having a member of the BOT meet with Moranco and report back. The BOT then reached a consensus to allow Moranco to come to address the BOT on their proposal at the next meeting.

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report– Matthew H. Thomas

Matt explained the year end expenditures and revenues totals as set forth in the financial summary handout.

REPORTS OF THE LIAISONS/COMMITTEES/SECTIONS

Judicial Liaison Superior Court – Judge Frank Cuthbertson

Judge G. Helen Whitener’s Swearing In Ceremony: Judge Cuthbertson announced that G. Helen Whitener’s Superior Court Judge swearing in ceremony is scheduled for February 5 at 4:00 p.m. Judge Whitener was attending a judicial college in January.

Mental Health Court: Judge Cuthbertson also announced that Superior Court is beginning a felony mental health court and Judge Murphy will be in charge of it.

Firearm in Courthouse: Judge Cuthbertson mentioned that one week ago an attorney entered the courthouse with a concealed weapon in his briefcase. A general discussion followed as to what steps should be taken to address this issue, including revoking the TPCBA courthouse bar identification card of anyone who violates the no firearms policy.

Judge Culpepper announced that Jeannette Lineberry would have her swearing in on Thursday and Pat O’Malley’s retirement event was on the same day.

Judicial Liaison Municipal Court – Judge Elizabeth Verhey

Judge Verhey announced that Drew Henke started as the new Tacoma Municipal Judge on January 12.

WSBA BOG Liaison Report – Keith Black

Keith asked members to contact him regarding any legislative bills that are of interest to them. Keith explained that the WSBA's Legislative Committee monitors law related bills.

Young Lawyers Section – Lindsay Camandona

Lindsay reported that the YLs are working with Commissioner Kiesel on finding topics for legal education. Lindsay said the YLs will be publishing a new edition of the TPCBA photo directory this year.

Criminal Law Section –Michael Schwartz

Mike announced that the section will be presenting a CLE in April on Mental Health Court.

Superior Court Commission – Clay Selby

Clay reported that the commission met last week with Judge Arend and Judge Murphy. Clay said the commission hopes to have an evaluation ready by one year from now. Clay also said that they have discussed limiting the evaluation to lawyers who practice in Superior Court and having no written comments.

Collaborative Law – Lynn Johnson

Lynn announced that there is a collaborative law meeting this coming week and that the speaker is Robin Balsam. Lynn also announced that the Collaborative Law Convention will be in March at Suncadia.

Mentorship Committee– Wendy Zicht

Wendy reported that 60+ volunteers have responded to the email blast. Now, they need to pair them up with new lawyers.

Washington Women Lawyers – Brittany Mahugh

Brittany reported that the Washington Women Lawyers are having a happy hour on February 9 at 4:30 p.m. and a Power of the Purse luncheon on March 11.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Following the committee reports, the meeting was adjourned.