

MINUTES OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, May 19, 2015
Harvester Restaurant 29 N Tacoma Ave, Tacoma
7:15 A.M.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President John Christensen called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

PRESENT

President:	John Christensen
Immediate Past President:	Dawn Farina
Trustee:	Sophia Palmer
Trustee:	Lindsay Camandona
Trustee:	Diane Clarkson
Trustee:	Dwayne Christopher
Trustee:	James McCormick
Trustee:	Sarah Richardson
Trustee:	Wendy Zicht
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Ronald Culpepper
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Stephanie Arend
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Commissioner Diana Kiesel
Municipal Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Elizabeth Verhey
Criminal Law Liaison:	Maureen Goodman
Criminal Law Liaison:	Michael Schwartz
VLS Liaison:	Jason Ruyf
VLS Director:	Laurie Davenport
Law School Liaison:	John Weaver
Moranco:	Larry Moranco
Moranco:	Kyle Lampi
Executive Director:	Kit Kasner

ABSENT

Vice President:	Matthew Thomas
Secretary/Treasurer:	Kenneth Blanford
Trustee:	Kevin Rundle
District Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Margaret Ross
WA Woman Lawyers Liaison:	Brittany Mahugh
WSBA Liaison 6 th District:	Keith Black
Collaborative Law Liaison:	Lynn Johnson
PC Minority Bar Liaison:	Sarah Lee

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE APRIL MINUTES

Minutes from the April meeting were approved.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President's Report – John Christensen

John reported the TPCBA Marketing CLE held on April 7th was not approved for credit by the WSBA. TPCBA CLE Co-chair, Mike McKasy, filed a Petition for Review with the MCLE Board. The reason for the denial was APR 11 regulation which disqualifies programs that are primarily designed to teach lawyers how to improve market share, attract clients, or increase profits. The petition argued that our CLE

was designed to teach lawyers how to use “social media” in their legal practice. These type of “social media” CLEs are not currently approved for credit but under APR 11 these types of training will be approved as of January 2016. John’s argument was that they disallow a “social media” program by the TPCBA for credit when the WSBA is presenting a CLE program on the same topic and has done 2 or 3 in the past for credit. We are waiting for their decision.

The Paint Tacoma Beautiful community service project is well on it’s way. This is the activity the trustees agreed to as a group for their community service project this year. Twelve members are confirmed and John and Matt will be in training and organizing their “crews” to get this project started sometime in July or August. Contact Kit at the Bar Office if you are not signed up and would like to help a senior or a person/family of low income.

John also reported that Matt Thomas confirmed Justice Debra Stephens as the 2016 Lincoln Day Banquet speaker.

NEW BUSINESS

Moranco Business Proposal

Marty Moranco and Kyle Lampi attended the meeting on behalf of Moranco & Associates to make a proposal seeking endorsement from the TPCBA Board.

If endorsed, Marty explained, there would be two sources of funding. First from the LAT program and second directly from Moranco. The latter, would be a specific donation to fund a particular event like Lawyerpalooza, a CLE or a portion of the Convention. The LAT donations appear to be specific grants of money not tied to any event that are based on the premiums collected from TPCBA members who insure through Moranco. In return, the Bar would run advertisements for Moranco in the PCL Magazine, website and at specific events such as the convention. Moranco would use language such as "Endorsed by TPCBA" in their marketing materials.

The proposal applies only to premiums for Errors and Omissions (ie malpractice) coverage, which may not be relevant to public sector lawyers. However, the money generated from this proposal would benefit the entire bar, both public and private attorneys and firms. Granting a private company a TPCBA endorsement is a major decision to be considered. There will be additional discussion and questions on this proposal.

John asked Marty three questions: What do they offer, what do they expect and why is this different from the other proposal from 3-4 years ago?

Q: What do they offer? A: Offers access to top carriers for our members. They shop the market for each member.

Q: What do they expect? A: Basically referrals.

Q: Why is this proposal different from the last one? A: Moranco is celebrating their 20 year anniversary. All the legalities have been worked out. Moranco offers us direct sponsorship ie Lincoln Day Banquet and other events. We ask them for the amount and they send it. Check also comes based upon premiums which LAT (Lawyer Association Trust) issues.

REPORTS OF THE LIAISONS/COMMITTEES/SECTIONS

Volunteer Legal Services Report

Laurie Davenport, VLS Program Director, made an announcement that the Bar Foundation received \$200,000 to be used between May 2015 and June 2017 to fund their Housing Justice Project. This is a grant

from the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office. The money was available as a result of a settlement of a lawsuit brought by the AGO related to the financial/foreclosure crisis.

VLS is hoping to schedule Bob Ferguson to come to Tacoma and congratulate their program on receiving the grant and they will be doing a press release once scheduled. This basically means they are on their way to the continued growth of the program which is very exciting.

Laurie presented a pie chart indicating the income from various funding sources for their annual budget. Their office runs with a small number of staff members, student and attorney volunteers. They currently have over 200 attorneys regularly volunteering for their programs. Their largest source of revenue is from the Legal Foundation of Washington.

There is also a meeting scheduled with the Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy to field a proposal to have the county provide some sustainable funding for the TPCBA VLS Program, specifically for its programs serving veterans. Laurie will work up a proposal as there are some significant precedents in Washington for legal aid programs such as theirs receiving county funding for specific programs.

One of the things Laurie is doing this year is looking for sustainable funding. The most sustainable income this year is the grant from the Legal Foundation and the annual allocation from the TPCBA.

Their big fundraising effort coming up this year is the Pierce County Law Firm Campaign which is a 3-year campaign. The kick off is October 22 at the Tacoma Art Museum, 5-7 pm. Jason Ruyf added that it's valuable to support the law firm campaign. It provides stability on a 3-year cycle so the program can actually plan and budget. They are working on getting the word out about the campaign. They are hoping for 100% contribution from the board of trustees, from the VLS board and from the judiciary, even if it's just a small sum.

Superior Court Judicial Liaison Report

Judge Culpepper announced the retirement of Judge Larkin. A celebration in his honor will be held on Wednesday, July 22nd. RSVP tpcba1@aol.com.

Judge Arend thanked the young lawyers on behalf of the bench for coordinating speakers in classrooms of middle and high school students during law week. Judge Arend appreciated all the work the young lawyers did in organizing this project.

Municipal Court Judicial Liaison Report

Judge Verhey reported they have a jail until the end of June as Fife extended their contract until the 30th. That's where the prisoners will be. There's negotiations going on with other jurisdictions. They are transitioning with a new Court Operations Supervisor, Elisa Hill, who will begin with Municipal Court on June 1.

Young Lawyers Report

Lindsay Camandona reported the Law Day Luncheon of May 8, 2015 was a success with 60+ attending. Barry Wallis was the speaker dressed in *Archbishop of Canterbury* costume in celebration of the anniversary of the Magna Carta. The young lawyers coordinated 13 judges, 18 presentations, at 5 different schools during law week. Lindsay reported a summer social for the Bar is planned the end of June. She also reported they are in the planning stages for doing the new Bar directory with plans for taking pictures in the fall.

Criminal Law Report

Maureen Goodman reported the Criminal Law Section participated in the Swearing In Ceremony and one new lawyer plans to practice criminal law. This new member will be in contact with Maureen and also be a part of the mentorship program.

Diversity Committee Report

Dwayne Christopher reported the goal of the Diversity Committee is to provide scholarships to graduating law students. He wants to invite the students to be more involved with the Bar ie Bar Convention and Lawyerpalooza and would like to invite the recipients to the Lincoln Day Banquet.

John reported Dwayne is also a member of the Palmer Scholarship Group which gives scholarships to Pierce County seniors that have underprivileged backgrounds. John would like to have the Bar get involved with the Palmer Scholarship Group next year and years to come by assisting with an annual monetary donation.

Mentorship Committee Report

Chair Wendy Zicht reported they are still finalizing their mentorship forms and a g-mail address has been established which will be rotated among the members on a monthly basis. The email address will be shared with Professor Weaver for use by law school students who may be in need of a mentor.

Washington Women Lawyers Report (report by email)

Brittany Mahugh turned her report in via email: Their next happy hour is scheduled Wednesday, June 10 at 5:00 pm at Tacoma Cabana; and their annual spring clean event was a huge success this year, donating more clothes to Courage360 than ever before. Thank you so much to all who donated!!

ADJOURNED 8:30 a.m.