

MINUTES OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, September 20, 2016
Harvester Restaurant 29 N Tacoma Ave, Tacoma
7:15 A.M.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Matthew Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:16 a.m.

PRESENT

President:	Matthew Thomas
Vice President:	T. Diane Clarkson
Immediate Past President:	John Christensen
Trustee:	Antoni Froehling
Trustee:	Sarah Richardson
Trustee:	John Wilson
Trustee:	Heather Straub
Family Law Section:	Barbara McInville
Young Lawyers Section President:	Ryan Hogaboam
Collaborative Law Liaison:	Lynn Johnson
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Presiding Judge Frank Cuthbertson
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Ronald Culpepper
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Stephanie Arend
Superior Court Judicial Liaison:	Commissioner Diana Kiesel
Law School Liaison:	John Weaver
WSBA BOG 6 th District:	Keith Black
	James McCormick
Executive Director:	Kit Kasner

ABSENT

Secretary/Treasurer:	Kenneth Blanford
Criminal Law Liaison:	Philip Thornton
Trustee:	Sophia Palmer
VLS Liaison/Minority Bar Association Liaison:	Mark Brady
Criminal Law Liaison:	Maureen Goodman
District Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge Margaret Ross
Tacoma Municipal Court Judicial Liaison:	Judge David Ladenburg
WA Women Lawyers Liaison:	Ingrid McLeod

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE MINUTES/TREASURER'S REPORT

A quorum was present. The July minutes were approved. The July Financial report was tabled until the next meeting for the treasurer to be present. The June minutes and Financial Report were tabled again until the October meeting.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President's Report – Matthew Thomas

Nominations are sought for Community Service Awards to be presented at the next Lincoln Day banquet. A list is included in the most recent issue of the TPCBA magazine. Please send nominations to Lisa Kremer with a suggested emphasis on nominees whose work contributes to the legal community beyond direct affiliation with TPCBA activity.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

John Wilson reported on the membership survey results which were overall positive. Appreciation for the TPCBA staff, collegiality and meaningful membership in the TPCBA as repeat themes in the responses. John will write a summary for the TPCBA magazine and a committee may form to implement responses to various issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt Thomas proposed a \$10.00 increase to all bar memberships which would result in a \$14,000.00 increase to the TPCBA. Membership rates have held the same for 5 years. Kit reported that TPCBA staffing and office costs have increased over that past 5 years. Discussion about increasing the membership rate by \$5.00 and the I.D. badge cost by \$5.00 was ultimately rejected. Discussion that government attorney rates should also increase was agreed. A vote was unanimously passed to increase the dues by \$10.00. Member rates will be \$140 for regular members and \$130.00 for government attorneys.

REPORTS FROM THE LIAISONS/SECTIONS/COMMITTEES

Superior Court Judicial Liaison Report

Judge Cuthbertson reported that Superior Court is involved in budget discussions with the county. Superior Court is proposing two more Commissioner positions and another GAL position. Pierce County has the highest DV filing rate in the state. The proposal for finishing the 5th floor courtrooms may be going by the wayside because the County Executive is considering a proposal for a Pierce County justice center involving a remodel of the whole County-City Building. Superior Court, District Court and the Prosecutor's office are discussing an initiative to reduce opiate dependency which would amend filings to district court which has probation officers, mental health resources and work crew options that are not available in Superior Court. He also noted that Judge Culpepper is retiring in October and encouraged members to attend the purple and gold retirement celebration on 10/28/16 at the Bates culinary arts center

Judge Arend reported that the on-going history project has completed the photo display of all Pierce County judges in courtroom 100 and their biographies will soon be on-line. The next phase details the history of all four Pierce County courthouses.

Bar Convention

John Christensen, Convention Committee Chair, reported that all is ready for the Star Wars themed Bar convention on September 30 – October 2. The minimum attendance requirements have been met for the hotel. Costume prizes will include a category for best dog costume this year as well. Enthusiasm over the excellent CLE presentations planned led to an inadvertent omission of break time between sessions.

Young Lawyers Report

Ryan Hogaboam, Young Lawyer Section President, reported that the swearing in ceremony for new lawyers will be tomorrow at Union Station at 4:30. The section's annual CLE will be held on the third Friday in October, with a general invitation social planned afterward. Judicial skit night plans are in the work, and the section is excited about the Obi Wine Kenobi social at the Bar Convention.

Volunteer Legal Services Report

Jamie McCormick reported on the awards program to be held on October 27 at the Tacoma Art Museum. The Pierce County Law Firm campaign is underway with a goal of \$50,000.00 this year. A grant for one support staff attorney has been renewed for another year and VLS is optimistic about a legal foundation grant increase for next year.

Minority Bar Association Report

Vice President Diane Clarkson reported the Minority Bar Association is active in Project 253 and had a successful event on 8/12 with another planned 9/24 at the People's Community Center. The theme is "Put the Guns Down." The MBA is also holding community outreach BBQs and handing out backpacks and toiletries.

WSBA

Keith Black reported that the board retreat and July meetings were in Walla Walla and the installation of new governors will be in Seattle at the end of September. The meeting facilitated by Cameron Fleury for discussion of the proposed by-laws was a good opportunity for discussion and he encourages all to review and contact him at any time to discuss WSBA issues of interest.

Collaborative Law

Lynn Johnson explained the purpose of Collaborative law and listed numerous local, state and national trainings occurring in the next several months. The local meetings of general membership occur at 5:00 pm at Grassi's on Bridgeport on 9/22/16, 12/8/16, 2/23/17, 4/27/17 and 5/15/17.

Other

Commissioner Kiesel said the next mentoring meeting will occur in November with the speaker TBD; the October meeting is canceled.

Jamie McCormick reported that the legislative committee is being formed.

Criminal Law Report

No report.

ADJOURNED 8:25 a.m.