

MINUTES OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, February 21, 2017

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Diane Clarkson at 7:15 a.m.

PRESENT

President	Diane Clarkson
Vice President	Steve Merrival
Immediate Past-President	Matthew Thomas
Secretary/Treasurer	Sarah Richardson
Trustee	Nicholas Andrews
Trustee	Antoni Froehling
Trustee	Amanda Searle
Trustee	Heather Straub
Trustee	John Wilson
Pierce County Superior Court Presiding Judge	Judge Elizabeth Martin
Pierce County Commissioner	Diana Kiesel
Criminal Law Section	Claire Vitikainen
Family Law Section Past President	Terri Farmer
Volunteer Legal Services	Chris Maharry
Collaborative Law	Lynn Johnson
Minority Bar Association President	Mark Brady
Washington Women Lawyers	Erica Eggertson
Magazine	Andrea McNeely and David Snell
WSBA BOG 6 th District	Keith Black
Law School Liaison	Professor John Weaver
Executive Director	Kit Kasner

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER / JANUARY MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the December / January Board of Trustees meeting were approved.

REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

President's Report – Diane Clarkson

Diane relayed that Sarah Richardson offered to resign the Secretary/Treasurer position last week so that the voting members could appoint a Secretary Treasurer after Sarah heard concerns that the election was invalid. The by-laws require a nominating committee to name two or more candidates per position. Diane relayed that after no one sought or was nominated for the position, Sarah agreed to run as the nomination period was closing. In answer to

questions from the BOT, Diane relayed that no one officially contested the election and none of the write-in candidates expressed concern about the outcome or sought the position. The BOT voted to ratify the election, with Sarah Richardson abstaining from the vote.

Diane thanked the TPCBA executive director and the staff for their exemplary work in organizing the Lincoln Day Banquet. She reported that Chuck Johnston is planning Lawyerpalooza this year, and it will likely be held in August.

Financial Report- Kit Kasner

Kit reported that the budget is good and has improved since it was passed at the end of 2016 after membership dues and the Lincoln Day Banquet. Diane plans to hold a TPCBA Talent Show in October to showcase the skills and talents of the membership. She's seeking an organizational committee and the Talent Show will be a fundraiser for the TPCBA.

LIAISON REPORTS

Superior Court – Judge Elizabeth Martin

The Superior Court committee is in the middle of the rule making process with a couple of proposed rules regarding hearing confirmation times and ex-parte mandatory e-filing to be ready for comment in late March. All judicial departments are again fully staffed.

Superior Court Commissioners – Commissioner Diana Kiesel

Commissioner Kiesel reported that Barbara McInville has begun as a new Commissioner and Sabrina Ahrens will start at the beginning of April. Commissioner Dicke will retire at the beginning of April with a party being held for her on March 17 at Remann Hall.

WSBA BOG- Keith Black

The BOG met in Spokane and decided not to vote on a Bar dues referendum after the Supreme Court determined en banc that raising the licensing fees in small increments from 2018-2020 is reasonable. The BOG will meet in Olympia in March. Six people have declared their candidacy in running for the 6th District BOG seat as Keith's term expires in September.

FAMILY LAW- Terri Farmer

The Family Law section held elections for their Board of Trustees in December. The Board meets the first Thursday each month at Joseppis at 4:30. The section plans to assist with the Love Stinks CLE this year.

CRIMINAL LAW- Claire Vitikainen

The Criminal Law section hopes to be more active this year in bench bar relationships. Judge Martin said the bench is considering a Best Practices manual for CDPJ and perhaps they can work together toward swifter case resolution.

VOLUNTEER LEGAL SERVICES- Chris Maharry

Chris reported that the office has new space for more clinic privacy and a new grant position has been filled for 1-3 years. Volunteers are still needed for the Washington Web Lawyer site and the Housing and Justice Project. Mark Brady attended the Civil Legal Needs day in Olympia last week seeking aid for civil litigation services.

MINORITY BAR- Mark Brady

The Minority Bar is hosting their annual Youth & Law Forum on March 31. The Tacoma School District is bringing over 100 students to attend mock trials, panel discussions with judges and attorneys, and law enforcement presenters are also planned. Professor Weaver and Seattle University Law Students will assist. Contact Mark to assist at: markbbrady@hotmail.com

COLLABORATIVE LAW- Lynn Johnson

The Collaborative Law's annual convention is March 9th – 11th in Chelan. Their next meeting is this Thursday at Grazies in University Place at 5:30 and everyone is welcome to attend.

Washington Women Lawyers- Erica Eggertson

In honor of Women's History Month, WWL is hosting a panel discussion regarding current and past challenges for women in the legal profession, and honor the founding members of the Pierce County WWL chapter. The event is on March 8, 2017 at the Blue Octopus champagne bar from 4:30-6 pm.

BAR MAGAZINE- Andrea McNeely

The magazine seeks to increase focus on what's happening in the bar, what the board is doing, and events that are scheduled. They are seeking newsier stories and stories on what members do outside the practice of law. Contact Andrea, Diane, Kit, or George Kelley with ideas. Deadlines are generally the first week of the month prior to the next issue. The next deadline for the May/June issue is April 7.

LAW SCHOOL LIAISON- John Weaver

The bar exam is being held at the Tacoma Convention center this week. Seattle University Dean Kelly Testye is stepping down this year.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Diane- Would like TPCBA to pay for Kit Kasner's breakfasts for the meetings. The motion was approved.

The next meeting date will be the voting members retreat at the Branch Colonial House on March 24th.