

TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 17, 2017
Tacoma Harvester Restaurant

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order at 7:18 by President Diane Clarkson.

PRESENT

President	Diane Clarkson
Past-President	Matthew Thomas
Vice President	Steve Merrival
Secretary-Treasurer	Sarah Richardson
Trustee	Nicholas Andrews
Trustee	Lindsay Camandona
Trustee	John Wilson
Trustee	Heather Straub
VLS	Chris Maharry
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison	Judge Elizabeth Martin
Pierce County Commissioner Liaisons	Commissioners Diana Kiesel and Mark Gelman
Family Law Section Liaison	Terri Farmer
Collaborative Law Committee	Lynn Johnson
Seattle University Law School Liaison	Professor John Weaver
Criminal Law Section	Matthew McGowan
Young Lawyers	Kelley Kavanagh
Tacoma Municipal Court	Judge David Ladenburg
Executive Director	Kit Kasner

ABSENT

Trustee	Antoni Froehling (Excused)
District Court Liaison	Judge Judy Jasprica
Kelley Kavanagh	Young Lawyers
Andrea McNeely	TPCBA Magazine
Jennifer Andrews / Erica Eggertsen	Washington Women Lawyers

Meeting called to order at 7:14.

September Meeting Minutes

September meeting minutes approved.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report – Diane Clarkson

The State Supreme Court will visit the University of Puget Sound on November 13-14 to hear three cases and hold public discussions. They are seeking TPCBA sponsorship, at no cost, and invite TPCBA members to attend a reception on Monday 11/13.

*A motion to sponsor this event was approved by vote.

Volunteers are needed to serve on the nominating committee for the 2018 TPCBA Board of Trustees. The vice-president and three trustee positions are up for election.

Mike Kawamura of the Department of Assigned Counsel seeks support of the board for budget approval with the Pierce County Council.

Thank you to the organizers of the Bar Convention. All 93 rooms and cottages were booked, with 105 registrants, 65 spouses and 20 children attending.

Vice President's Report - Steve Merrival

The information about the VLS and Lawyerpalooza funding was misrepresented in letters to the Bar's magazine. The Board of Directors and executive board have been meeting with VLS. The Bar Foundation is the funding source for VLS; it's a 401(c)(3) corporation. The TPCBA is not a 401(c)(3) corporation. Regarding criticism over the photo of Steve holding a large beer container from Lawerpalooza, that was the container of beer that he boiled the brats in.

Secretary-Treasurer Report – Sarah Richardson

The budget is in good standing. Detailed information about costs and income from the Bar Convention should be available next month. Members should be encouraged to attend Board meetings to review and observe discussions regarding budget.

BUSINESS

Unfinished Business

Discussion was held regarding the additional funding for VLS. John Wilson co-authored the 2012 VLS 5-year plan when he was co-president of the Bar Foundation and gave his perspective from that position. The top recommendation in the plan was to increase the VLS communication between VLS, the Bar Foundation and the TPCBA. The TPCBA has continued to contribute funds to VLS. Since

2012, VLS has grown significantly, from a \$180,000 to \$500,000 per year and now employs 5 attorneys. It is part of TPCBA, but has not sought TPCBA approval in budget and employee increases. TPCBA funding percentage is at odds with the increase growth. It is incumbent on VLS to come to the board each year to discuss current status and future plans, especially since the TPCBA board changes each year.

A motion to complete a new 5-year plan regarding how VLS and TPCBA should work together and the funding sources to be considered was approved.

Chris Maharry, the VLS representative to TPCBA, said that VLS does not have animosity with the TPCBA board. VLS does not expect the TPCBA to fund a large part of the budget. Grant money is required for the funding, and grant funding has specific spending requirements. It cannot be put into savings for the future.

New Business

Action items including a vote on adding diversity to the mission statement and videos to the website were tabled due to time constraints.

COMMITTEE / LIAISON / SECTION REPORTS

Pierce County Superior Court – Judge Martin

Congratulations to Terri Farmer who was hired as the newest Superior Court Commissioner. She will start November 6. Superior Court is hoping to add one more judicial officer next year to address increased dependency and mental health courts. On November 17th at 3:00, the Court is hosting a CLE on Unconscious Bias and the jury response study.

Commissioners Kiesel and Gelman noted large volumes of email now; they are very glad to have Terri Farmer on-board. Room 100 is temporarily relocated for renovation.

Tacoma Municipal Court - Judge David Ladenburg:

The court is working with a company to transition to a paperless work environment.

Criminal Law - Matthew McGowan

The section is hoping to host a trivia night soon. New forms may trickle in to District Court.

Seattle University – John Weaver

No Sidebar event in Tacoma this fall. He'll update later regarding a Spring event.

WSBA - Brian Tollefson

The WSBA is considering whether to mandate malpractice insurance. The bylaws were amended to fill a past-president position when that position is vacant. Keith Black's last email gave a good summary of WSBA events.

ADJOURNED at 8:35

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 21 at 7:15 a.m. at the Tacoma Harvester Restaurant.