

TACOMA PIERCE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

Tacoma Harvester Restaurant

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT

President	Diane Clarkson
Vice President	Steve Merrival
Secretary-Treasurer	Sarah Richardson
Trustee	Antoni Froehling
Trustee	Nicholas Andrews
Pierce County Superior Court Liaison	Judge Elizabeth Martin
Pierce County Commissioner Liaison	Commissioner Mark Gelman
Family Law Section Liaison	Terri Farmer
Seattle University Law School Liaison	Professor John Weaver
TPCBA Magazine	Andrea McNeely
Minority Bar	Mark Brady
Criminal Law Section	Matthew McGowan
Young Lawyers	Kelley Kavanagh
Tacoma Municipal Court	Commissioner Randall Hansen
Washington Women Lawyers	Jennifer Andrews
Executive Director	Kit Kasner
TPCBA member	Sal Mungia

ABSENT

Trustee	Amanda Searle (Excused)
Trustee	Lindsay Camandona (Excused)
Trustee	Heather Straub (Excused)
Past-President	Matthew Thomas (Excused)
District Court Liaison	Judge Judy Jasprica
Trustee	John Wilson (Excused)
Collaborative Law Liaison	Lynn Johnson
Volunteer Legal Services	Chris Maharry

Meeting called to order at 7:20, insufficient voting members for a quorum until later so action items postponed until after reports.

OFFICER REPORTS

President's Report – Diane Clarkson

Lawyerpalooza was great with 400-450 people in attendance. Diane stayed until about 12:30 a.m. She noted that some new attorneys came and more people of color than in past years. The NAACP dinner had a TPCBA table, which was recognized and thanked for our support. The TPCBA magazine will be out October 2. Sal Mungia wrote an article criticizing how the bar spends its money and suggesting other causes rather than purely social events like Lawyerpalooza. Diane wrote a response article in appreciation of the work of the board and supporting Lawyerpalooza as a free event so that anyone may attend regardless of budget. The convention is coming up and substitute speakers are replacing a few last minute cancellations.

Vice President's Report - Steve Merrival

Nothing to report.

Secretary-Treasurer Report – Sarah Richardson

Budget and bank accounts are in good standing. August shows higher expenditures due to VLS and Lawyerpalooza donations.

BUSINESS

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Sal Mungia requested three action items of the TPCBA. 1) that the TPCBA promote and/or support diversity on the website via a mission statement or statement of values, 2) that we publish 3 videos on the website regarding discrimination against Muslims and 3) that instead of spending money on a purely social event like Lawyerpalooza that we use our funds to assist others. One suggestion is an event at a lower-income school to provide food to all attendees and school supplies for the children. This would also promote diversity.

Discussion ensued about how to change the mission statement, a suggestion that a school event be in addition to Lawyerpalooza, a suggestion that addressing Muslim discrimination go through VLS clinics because the bylaws prohibit involvement in political issues, a comment that the public is more likely to view YouTube videos over a web page for information, a suggestion to survey membership about holding Lawyerpalooza again next year. Diane and Kit will email the board members to recap these issues for discussion at the October 17 meeting.

Diane plans to hold a Talent Showcase in January as a social gathering and fund raiser to show the artistic talents of the TPCBA membership. She's seeking venue suggestions. She also plans to organize a public service event at St. Leos through the Food Connection.

Lawyers Helping Hungry Children occurs on October 10th at St. Leo's church.

Tacoma Pro Bono Night occurs October 26 from 5-7 at the Tacoma Art Museum. Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson will be speaking.

JULY MEETING MINUTES

A quorum was obtained and the July meeting minutes were passed.

COMMITTEE / LIAISON / SECTION REPORTS

Pierce County Superior Court – Judge Martin

The Color of Justice project had over 60 girls in attendance and was a success. Judges voted to continue showing the Unconscious Bias video and it will be shown to attorneys as a CLE in the jury room in mid-November. Details to follow. The 9th Commissioner position is now open for applications. LaVonna Jones, an attorney, was hired as the new Family Law Technician. The court is proposing a 10th Commissioner position for the new budget, a floating JA position and support staff screeners for the Commissioners. Commissioner Gelman noted that King County has 2 judges doing the work that the 9th Commissioner position will do.

Tacoma Municipal Court - Commissioner Randall Hansen

Tacoma has looked at the Unconscious Bias videos. They continue to work on going paperless.

Young Lawyers - Kelley Kavanagh

The swearing in ceremony will be September 26 at the Federal Courthouse. Judicial Skit night is planned for December 7th. Matt McGowan is planning a trivia night social. Pierce County District Court has a clothing bank called "Just Threads" and YL is seeking coat and rain jacket donations for the bank.

Family Law – Terri Farmer

The section raised about \$1,000 for their school drive and matched it for Catholic Community Services. They had a successful first social at Seven Seas and may make it an annual event. Last month's CLE on immigration issues in family law was well-attended and interesting. No CLE in September. October will be a CLE on Team Child, and in November they will host a Commissioner's panel CLE.

Criminal Law - Matthew McGowan

The section is still moving and going strong.

Bar Convention - Kit Kasner and Diane Clarkson

The convention is ready and sold out. Registration is packed.

Washington Women Lawyers - Jennifer Andrews

WWL is hosting a "Just Fabulous" event and honoring Miriam Barnett of the YWCA. Elections for new co-presidents will occur soon.

Seattle University – John Weaver

Professor Weaver is speaking at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning at the Bar Convention. Attendance is required for a good grade. Law school has started again.

ADJOURNED

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 17th at 7:15 a.m. at the Tacoma Harvester Restaurant.