

Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
March 27, 2008

Stephanie Resnick, Chair of the Board called the meeting called to order at 3:40 p.m.

The Chair requested that the minutes of the February 28, 2008 meeting be approved. Upon motion made and seconded, they were approved. .

The Chair recognized Treasurer Jeff Lindy who presented the financial report through the end of February. The Association remains in the positive column with no significant change. The Treasurer's report was moved, seconded, and accepted unanimously.

The Chair recognized Paul Uyehara from the Language Access Task Force to present a Resolution supporting federal legislation providing funding for State Court interpreters. The resolution was submitted by Public Interest Section. The Resolution would enable federal funding to be available for court interpreting. Upon motion made and seconded, the motion passed unanimously in support of the Resolution.

The Chair then recognized David Faw, the Association's outside Auditor, who was introduced by Treasurer, Jeff Lindy. Mr. Faw reported that the Audit team had no difficulties in conducting the audit due to the readiness of the Association staff, Susan Knight in particular. Mr. Faw discussed the outcome of the audit, consistent with his report. The opinion rendered was favorable. Mr. Faw reported that all management letters had been acted on. Upon motion made and seconded, there was discussion. The motion passed unanimously to accept the Audit report.

Chancellor A. Michael Pratt reported on a new merit selection bill introduced in state legislature concerning appellate selection. There was a press conference in Harrisburg which Chancellor Pratt attended. Association Executive Director Ken Shear reported that the Association has been on record in support of merit selection for over 50 years. Chancellor Pratt will put a Task Force in place to see what the Association can do with regard to this bill. Chancellor Pratt also announced that he has directed the Association staff to prepare an initiative for a grant with regard to the Department of Aging. This may require board approval.

The Chair then recognized YLD Vice Chair Brian Chacker who discussed Comedy night which will be held on May 10. The cost is \$65 in advance. He encourages sponsors for the event which also qualifies for credit for the Raise the Bar Campaign.

The Chair then recognized the next issue is placement of members of the Board to the nominating committee. However, even though the Association has been working on possible changes to the bylaws in this regard, the current bylaws require these nominations to be made before the end of March. The individuals who are eligible were then listed. Jackie Segal, Karen Detamore, Gaetan Alfano, Jeff Gross, and Wesley Payne were nominated and seconded. Gaetan Alfano and Wesley Payne agreed to withdraw. A motion was then made that Jackie Segal, Karen Detamore, and Jeff Gross would be the nominees.

The Chair then recognized Bruce Franzel from the Charter & Bylaws Committee to present a Resolution to submit bylaws concerning the elimination of the Nominating Committee, creating an Elections Committee, and revising the nominating process to the Association Members. Upon motion made and seconded, there was discussion. One Board Member discussed whether there could be any rotation of the members of the Election Committee. There was discussion that the Chancellor could take this into consideration. The motion passed unanimously in support of the Resolution.

The Chair recognized Kim Jessum and Michael Berkowitz who presented a report on the activities and initiatives of the Intellectual Property Committee. There is a Philadelphia organization and the Benjamin Franklin Inn of Court which also works on Intellectual Property issues but there was never an intellectual property committee of the Association. Attendance at the meetings has been good and includes participants from all size firms and background. An article is anticipated for Philadelphia Lawyer Magazine. Former Chancellor Abe Reich pointed out if there are any resolutions that might interest the ABA, they should be presented next month for action at the next ABA meeting. Chancellor Pratt gave praise to the committee co-chairs.

The Chair recognized Michael Hayes to present a Resolution from the Membership Committee to initiate a pilot program to provide a year of free membership to public interest and government lawyers. He pointed to such initiatives by YLD in the past. Upon motion made and seconded, there was discussion on how to track whether the program is successful. The program would apply this year. Chancellor Pratt pointed out the need to get more government lawyers involved and that many of such lawyers are minorities. Chancellor Pratt has discussed this program with the District Attorney, The Public Defender, and City Solicitor who expressed interest. Full time judicial clerks also would qualify. The motion passed unanimously in support of the Resolution.

The Chair recognized Jeff Lichtman who presented a report on the activities of the Social Security Disability Committee. The goals of the Committee include keeping members up to date on applicable laws, the work of other trade associations that focus on Social Security, changes in filing procedures on line. He also reported on a resolution passed by the Association in 2007. In April, Judge McLaughlin will present to the Committee on appeals to United States District Court. In June, the Committee will meet with Disability Advocates whose job it is to assist with welfare applicants.

The Chair then recognized Judy Berkman and Cindy Daley from the Real Property Section to present a Resolution supporting the establishment of conservatorships to rehabilitate abandoned and blighted property. The Housing Alliance has been working on issues with blighted properties for years. Walking away from the property is akin to stealing the value of their neighbor's property. A motion was made and seconded. There was discussion of how fundamental this Resolution is from a liability standpoint, funding issues and how conservatorships work. A member asked if there is another side and whether anyone would be opposed to this. Cindy Daley said banks might be concerned due to priority of liens. The motion passed unanimously in support of the Resolution.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 4:55 pm to proceed to a reception with members of Philadelphia City Council.

Respectfully submitted,
KATHLEEN D. WILKINSON
Secretary