

**WAUKESHA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Monday, September 18, 2023
via Zoom video conference**

Present: Remzy Bitar, Jesse Blocher (partial/not present for voting), Sarah Guenther (Treasurer), Christine Hansen (Secretary), Alexander Kay, Andrea Lau, Jack Pitzo, Daniel Rieck, AnnMarie Sylla (Past President)

Excused: Corey Montiho (President), Aaron Hall (President Elect)

Absent: Michelle Fitzgerald (technology issue), Sara Scullen

Call to Order: The meeting began at 12:04 p.m. under the direction of Treasurer Sarah Guenther in President Montiho's absence.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sarah Guenther circulated the written treasurer's report for August and September prior to the meeting. There was no discussion. Treasurer Guenther advised that she is working on filing the WCBA's Form 990.

Old Business:

1. **Minutes:** Jack Pitzo made a motion to approve the minutes as proposed. Alexander Kay seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
2. **Membership Update:** Treasurer Guenther advised that President Montiho has reached out to both law schools regarding student membership and will be setting up a meeting with the law schools to discuss further. Treasurer Guenther advised that she believes overall 2023 membership is on track with 2022 membership and that membership renewals have been coming in.

New Business:

1. **WCBA Courthouse Banner:** Discussion was had about whether to remove, keep, or update the scrolling multi-color programmable electronic WCBA banner that had been at the top of the stairs on the second floor of the courthouse next to the elevators since approximately 2018. Discussion was had that given the current courthouse construction members are not likely to see the sign if re-installed in that location given that everyone is routed to the new courthouse tower.

Remzy Bitar moved to forgo having the scrolling electronic banner installed in the courthouse. The motion was seconded by Jack Pitzo. Discussion was had about discussing with Clerk of Courts Monica Paz about installing an updated WCBA notification device in the courthouse during construction. The motion passed unanimously. Treasure Guenther or Past President Sylla will speak to Monica Paz about the installation of a new notification system.

2. **Judicial Portraits:**

- a. **Missing Portraits:** Treasurer Guenther advised that Judge Strampe has not responded about sitting for his portrait. As such, she will advise Clerk of Courts Monica Paz that Judge Strampe does not want his portrait done.

- b. Portraits Missing Plates:** Treasurer Guenther advised that Corey Montiho contacted Geiger Awards about the plates missing from the judicial portraits of Judges Foster, Haughney, Dreyfus, and Lazar. Treasurer Guenther believes the cost to replace is likely to be nominal. Jack Pitzo moved to approve the cost of creating and installing the missing plates. AnnMarie Sylla seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved up to a total maximum cost of \$200.
- 3. WCBA Presidents Plaque:** Treasurer Guenther advised that the last WCBA president on the plaque is Tom Hofbauer. Clerk of Court Monica Paz and President Montiho are still working on locating the plaque. President Montiho is also working on getting a quote from Geiger Awards to bring the plaque up to date. The issue was tabled to a future meeting.
- 4. Local Bar Relations Meeting:** Sarah Guenther provided an update on the August 16, 2023, State Bar of Wisconsin “Connecting with Local Bars” meeting she attended. At the meeting State Bar President Dean Dittrich recommended sending out a survey to members regarding their preferences for events. Treasurer Guenther recommended that someone on the WCBA Board of Directors attend the quarterly “Connecting with Local Bars” meeting.
- 5. Sections and Bench Bar Committee**
 - a. Criminal Section Chair Update:** Treasurer Guenther advised that Patrick Campbell and Jessica Klein have agreed to co-chair the Criminal Law Section with Attorney Campbell fielding e-mails and updating the Facebook page.
 - b. Section Updates:** Treasurer Guenther advised that the family and probate sections have recently given their updates at board meetings. Past President Sylla recommended that Treasurer Guenther reach out to the other section chairs about presenting on their activities at future board meetings.
- 6. 2023-2024 Seminars:**
 - a. Litigation CLE:** Jesse Blocher advised that the litigation seminar is planned for 8:30-3:10 p.m. on October 17, 2023, at the Marriott and will be either seven or eight credits. Five of the seven speakers have been confirmed including Judge Michael Aprahamian, Judge Maria Lazar, Assistant District Attorney Zachary Wittchow, and Attorney Jesse Blocher. He is planning for the other two presentations to be a panel of retired judges/mediators and a criminal defense attorney.
 - b. Ethics Seminar:** AnnMarie Sylla advised that the planning of the 2023 Ethics Seminar has not yet begun. Past President Sylla inquired whether it would be best to move the 2023 ethics seminar to a different time since the litigation seminar and Judges’ Night are being held in close proximity. Treasurer Guenther recommended that it be held at its traditional time in the first two weeks of November. Secretary Christine Hansen concurred as members who need to report rely on the ethics seminar being held annually in November. Past President Sylla will work with President Montiho to plan the seminar.

8. 2023-2024 Events

- a. **Judicial Roundtable/Support Staff Luncheon:** Treasurer Guenther inquired about whether the board wants the next Judicial Roundtable to be on criminal law again or whether the board wants to do another practice area such as civil or family or focus on courthouse security. Past President Sylla advised that the Family Law section gets their updates at the May CLE. Treasurer Guenther advised that juvenile has their GAL seminar scheduled for the first Friday in November and will get their updates then. Jack Pitzo advised that he can reach out about the spring 2024 roundtable being on courthouse security and updates.
 - b. **Euchre Night/Happy Hour:** Treasurer Guenther advised that President Montihio believes the next Euchre Night will be September 27, 2023, at Raised Grain.
 - c. **Judges' Night:** Secretary Hansen advised that Judges' Night is planned as voted on by the board and the entertainment has been booked. However, the facility vendor advised that they neglected to include the mandatory beverage fee for soft drinks and coffee in our contract. Discussion was had on the number of likely attendees. Treasurer Guenther moved to approved the cost of complimentary coffee and soft drinks for attendees. Jack Pitzo seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - d. **Holiday Party:** Past President Sylla advised that the 2023 holiday party has been planned for the Historic Courthouse 1893 as voted on by the board. She reduced the contract to 80 attendees as there were approximately 70+ attendees in 2022 and we can exceed the 80 attendees if more people want to attend. The deposit has been paid. The final details that will need to be done as we get closer to the event are the walk through, discussion on member giveaways, and food choices.
9. **Board of Governors Update:** District 6 Board of Governors (BOG) Representative AnnMarie Sylla reported that the next BOG meeting is Friday, September 22, 2023, in Sheboygan. The special purpose trust documents are available for those who wish to review them.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Jack Pitzo, seconded by Remzy Bitar. The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine L. Hansen, Secretary