

**WAUKESHA COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Monday, June 24, 2024  
via Zoom video conference**

**Present:** Remzy Bitar, Aaron Hall (President Elect), Michelle Fitzgerald, Sarah Guenther (Treasurer), Christine Hansen (Secretary), Alexander Kay, Corey Montiho (President)

**Excused:** Jesse Blocher, Andrea Lau, Daniel Rieck, AnnMarie Sylla (Past President)

**Absent:** Jack Pitzo, Sara Scullen

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Montiho at 11:47 a.m.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Sarah Guenther circulated the financial reports prior to the meeting. No questions were raised at the meeting about the reports.

**Board of Governor's Update:** District 6 Board of Governors (BOG) Representative Sarah Guenther reported that the last BOG meeting was held June 19, 2024. At the meeting they discussed the new diversity policy and worked on the transition of leadership. President-Elect Ryan Billings was sworn in as interim President following the appointment of President Jane Bucher to the Green County Circuit Court bench.

**Old Business:**

- 1. May 2024 Meeting Minutes:** The 2024 Annual Meeting minutes will be voted on for approval at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Proposed minutes from the May 2024 Annual Meeting do not need to be published on the website.

**New Business:**

- 1. Bench Bar Committee:** Discussion was had about whether to replace the Bench Bar Committee with division roundtables as requested by Presiding Judge Ralph Ramirez or to keep the Bench Bar Committee in place as set forth in the bylaws. Treasurer Guenther discussed how some of the sections/divisions – such as the Family Law Section – currently have routine well-attended meetings but some of the other division's activities – such as the Juvenile Court's "Buzz Session" – would not be sufficient to serve as a replacement.

Treasurer Guenther further noted that the Milwaukee Bar Association has meetings every other month by practice area at which they discuss relevant issues including local rules. In contrast, the existing Waukesha County Bar Association Bench Bar Committee meets quarterly and covers all divisions. Secretary Hansen advised that the Bench Bar Committee last met June 1, 2023, and listed who some of the committee member/participants were. No action taken. Discussion tabled to a future meeting.

- 2. Section Membership Forms:** The municipal and real estate section membership forms will be disseminated to the section chairs. Other membership forms have been updated and need to be published to the website. The section chairs need to be invited to the Board of Director meetings to provide an update on their activities. Discussion was had on how often each section meets and their activities.

3. **Setting of 2024-25 Events.** Treasurer Guenther discussed the financial implications related to the events. Discussion was had about whether to move the litigation seminar back to the spring and keep Judges' Night in October given that there will also be a judicial candidate forum in February or March 2024. President Montiho and President-Elect Hall will look into venues and possible dates for Judges' Night. President-Elect Hall will then circulate information to the full board by email prior to the August 12, 2024, meeting.
4. **2024-25 Membership.** Discussion was had about the Boards' activities for soliciting members for the upcoming year. Treasurer Guenther advised that the website sends out automatic renewal reminders for existing members. Consideration was given to possibly doing a mailing to solicit new members. President Montiho will contact the State Bar to inquire about obtaining a list of members for that purpose. Attorney Bitar indicated he was willing to reach out to larger firms to solicit members. No further action taken. President-Elect Hall will put the issue on the August agenda.
5. **2024-25 Board of Directors and Section Leadership:** A chair is needed for the Young Lawyers' Section. Board members should look to recruit an attorney to be the chair.
6. **Website Duties:** Discussion was had about who will be entering memberships into the website, uploading the updated forms to the website, and publishing news – such as judicial rotation information – to the website going forward now that AnnMarie Sylla is rotating off the Board. Secretary Hansen indicated that she would assist given that she will be uploading the minutes to the website. President Montiho, President-Elect Hall, and Secretary-Elect Kay will also watch the training video so they can assist. Treasurer Guenther will continue to send information to the membership via Constant Contacts and update the Facebook page.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Hansen, Secretary