WEST VIRGINIA BAR FOUNDATION  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
 TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL  
 MARCH 3, 2016-12:00 NOON

MINUTES

The telephone conference call meeting of the West Virginia Bar Foundation’s Board of Directors was called to order by President Ancil Ramey on March 3, 2016, at 12:00 Noon.

Board Members participating by telephone conference call were Vice President Jodie Boylen, Secretary/Treasurer Ken Gray, Immediate Past President Steve White, Judge Alan Moats, Judge Mary Ellen Griffith, Tom Flaherty, Richard Bolen, Mary Clare Eros, Kathy Santa Barbara, Rich Ford and Harry “Chip” Shaffer, III. Bar Foundation Executive Director Tom Tinder also participated.

The first item on the Agenda was a review of the Minutes of the previous Board of Directors meeting which had been held on December 3, 2015. A motion was duly made, seconded and passed that the Minutes be approved.

President Ramey called upon Secretary/Treasurer Gray to present the financial report. He stated that the income line items are satisfactory for this time of the year with two matters for consideration. First, contacts are still being made regarding a $5,000 donation for sponsorship of the Lawyer Leadership Institute, which will be held in the middle of May. Second, the attendance was down for the Lunch and Laughs event last September and less income than budgeted was received.

The expense line items are in good order with no unexpected amounts. Overall, the financial condition is stable with significant amounts of Bar Foundation Fellow Program funds to be received in the next two weeks as the members of the 2016 class make their financial commitments. A motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve the Financial Report as presented.

The next item for discussion was the strategic plan. President Ramey reported that the 18th Foundation Fellows Dinner is set for April 28, 2016, at the Marriott Hotel and that there will be 22 Fellows in the class. There were two persons who declined---Terry Reed (Buckhannon) because of family health matters and Tom McQuain (Charleston) because of personal reasons. After some discussion, a motion was duly made, seconded and approved that the nomination of Terry Reed be carried over to 2017 to determine if his family situation had changed and improved.

The 5th Lawyer Leadership Institute has been set for May 13-15, 2016, at Stonewall Resort. Board members, who have younger lawyers to nominate to participate in the Institute, should make those nominations in the next few days.

President Ramey informed the Board that Judge John Copenhaver had regretfully declined the invitation to be the honored guest at the Lunch and Laughs event on September 9, 2016, because of federal judiciary ethical guidelines. The Board members discussed the matter and then a motion was duly made, seconded and approved to invite Robert Steptoe, Jr. (Bridgeport) to be the honoree.

The Justice Fund report was given by President Ramey. He stated that there was $613,238 in the Fund, approximately the same amount as at the December Board meeting. He requested that the Board members make their final contacts with prospective law office donors and complete their Contacts Reports.

The next item on the agenda was the Grants Committee report as follows---the amount of grants made or committed for the current 2015-16 fiscal year is $32,000, which leaves the amount of $18,000 available for distribution by June, 2016. The Committee considered one new grant application that had been received from the WV Child Advocacy Network to convene two summits on child abuse victims in the criminal justice system for the amount of $3,000. The Network is the alliance of all child advocacy centers in the state---the Bar Foundation has made several grants over the years to local child advocacy centers in Harrison, Logan, Mercer, Monongalia and Wood counties, as well as the Eastern Panhandle. The grant would be used for two summits, one for judges and one for prosecuting attorneys, who are involved in child abuse and neglect cases. After discussion, a motion was duly made, seconded and approved to make a grant of $3,000.

                     Then, there was discussion relating to the situation that in June, 2013, the Bar Foundation had approved a multi-year grant to the WV State Bar as it initiated its comprehensive Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP). The grant was for $5,000 each year for five years for a total of $25,000---the largest grant ever approved by the Bar Foundation. There were conditions attached so that the Bar Foundation grants were the last dollars in. It has been publically reported that the LAP program has hired an Executive Director (Bar Foundation Fellow George Daugherty) and has a growing caseload of lawyers and judges to whom it is providing services for drug and alcohol abuse, mental health problems, dementia, etc. A motion was duly made, seconded and passed that the Bar Foundation Executive Director be directed to formally contact George Daugherty and request a report concerning the approved Bar Foundation grant.

President Ramey then called upon the Nominating Committee for its report. Vice President Boylen reported the following actions:

Board of Directors-

Ellen Cappellanti-Charleston-First three year term-ACCEPTED (Must get permission from her firm’s Executive Committee, “which should not be an issue.”)

Tom Heywood-Charleston-First three year term-(Must get approval from his firm’s Executive Committee.)

                        David Jividen-Wheeling-First three year term-ACCEPTED

 Christine Morris-Charleston-First three year term-ACCEPTED   
(Judge Dwane Tinsley-Charleston-First three year term-Refused -“Too busy at work.”)

                        Tracey Weber, III-Weston-First three year term-ACCEPTED

Officers-

President-Jodie Boylen-Parkersburg

Vice President-Ken Gray-Morgantown

Secretary/Treasurer-Mary Clare Eros-Shepherdstown

A motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve the Nominating Committee’s recommendations.

Executive Director Tinder was requested to give his report. He asked the Board members if they were having any problems with Bar Foundation electronic communications and there were none with one exception. He informed the Board of the recent accident involving Immediate Past President White and the lengthy rehabilitation that will occur. Mr. White said he would work hard and return to his usual active pace.

     President Ramey announced that the remaining Board of Directors

meeting would be held at 12:00 Noon on Thursday, June 2, 2016.  
  
  
 There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned.