WEST VIRGINIA BAR FOUNDATION  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
 TELEPHONE CONFEENCE CALL  
 JUNE 2, 2016-12:00 NOON

MINUTES

The meeting of the West Virginia Bar Foundation’s Board of Directors was called to order by Vice President Jodie Boylen, on behalf of President Ancil Ramey, on June 2, 2016, at 12:00 Noon with everyone participating by telephone conference call.

Board Members participating by telephone conference call were Secretary/Treasurer Ken Gay, Judge John Bailey, Judge Alan Moats, Judge Mary Ellen Griffith, Richard Bolen, Mary Clare Eros, Richard Ford, Jr. and H.G. Shaffer, III. Bar Foundation Executive Director Tom Tinder were also present.

The first item on the Agenda was a review of the Minutes of the previous Board of Directors meeting which had been held on March 3, 2016. A motion was duly made, seconded and passed that the Minutes be approved.

Vice President Boylen called upon Secretary/Treasurer Gray to present the financial report. He went through the projected revenues and expenses for the July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 fiscal year and reported that it will be basically break even with less revenue, and also less expenses, for the Lunch and Laughs event. If we had been able to get a Sponsor to make a donation ($5,000-$10,000) for the Lawyer Leadership Institute, it would have been a more positive financial report, but overall it was another good financial year for the Bar Foundation.

The proposed budget for 2016-17 is very similar to this year’s break even financial report and, if a Lawyer Leadership Institute Sponsor can be obtained, it would be a very good year. After additional comments, a motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve the financial report and the 2016-17 budget.

Vice President Boylen discussed the Strategic Planning activities with specific mention of the successful 18th Bar Foundation Fellows Dinner on April 27 when 22 judges and lawyers were honored in this year’s Fellows class. She asked Mr. Tinder to make additional comments regarding the Lawyer Leadership Institute held on May 13-15 where 10 newer lawyers received leadership training from excellent judges and lawyers and the Lunch and Laughs with a Legal Legend that is scheduled for September 9 with Robert Steptoe, Jr. as the honoree.

The next agenda item was the Justice Fund report with the Fund Raising Campaign goal of $1 million for three years, beginning in 12/14 and concluding in 12/17. So far, 17 Law Offices have declined to contribute, six legal entities have contributed $60,000 and there has been no report from board members regarding the 28 remaining assigned law offices. With $622,000 currently in the Justice Fund, Vice President Boylen proposed a direct solicitation to individual WV lawyers later in 2016.

Mr. Bolen gave the Grants Committee report and stated that the amount of grants made or committed during the current fiscal year is $37,500, which leaves the amount of $12,500 available for distribution by June 30, 2016. The Committee recommended a grant to CASA of the Fifth Judicial Circuit for $2,500 after receiving a sustainability plan from the organization and a grant to Child Protect of Mercer County for an amount of $1,500, which is in addition to a Bar Foundation grant of $2,500 that was approved for child abuse and neglect therapy sessions earlier this fiscal year. A motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve these grants.

In addition, the Committee recommended that no funds be provided to the WV Rural Health Association because the request did not meet the Bar Foundation’s mission and that REACH Child Advocacy Center be requested to provide additional information regarding a sustainability plan and how yoga affects and supports anti-bullying efforts before consideration can be given to a grant in some amount. A motion was duly made, seconded and approved to agree to those recommendations.

For information, the Grants Committee and the Board of Directors had instructed Mr. Tinder to contact the WV State Bar regarding the earlier Bar Foundation grant to provide funding for the Lawyer Assistance Program (LAP) in the amount of $5,000 each for five years ($25,000) with the grants being the last dollars in. There has been no response from the State Bar. However, the Program is searching for a new Executive Director at the present time and the Grants Committee recommended to the Board to wait until the new person is on board. A motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve that recommendation.

Finally, a motion was duly made, seconded and passed to continue the Bar Foundation Public Service Scholarship at the WV College of Law for the 2016-17 academic year in the amount of $20,900.

Vice President Bolen gave the report of the Nominating Committee for the Officers to serve in 2016-17. The nominations were:

President-Jodie Boylen-Parkersburg  
 Vice President Ken Gray-Morgantown  
 Secretary/Treasurer-May Clare Eros-Shepherdstown

A motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve the Officer nominations.

Vice President Boylen then presented her plans for the upcoming year. She suggested that all quarterly Board meetings continue to be done by telephone conference call for effectiveness and convenience.

She said that the sixth annual Lunch and Laughs with a Legal Legend program is set for Friday, September 19, in Morgantown and Robert M. Steptoe, Jr. is the “roastee”. The Bar Foundation Fellows program continues to be successful in honoring outstanding judges and lawyers and the 2017 event is proposed for Thursday, April 27, 2017. The Lawyer Leadership Institute has provided excellent leadership training to younger lawyers for the past three years. Each small diverse group of no more than 12 attorneys receives excellent skills and traits from prominent judges and lawyers. The 2017 LLI is proposed for May 12-14, 2017. Possible Sponsors are Antero Energy, Puskar Foundation and Westfield Insurance and consideration will be given to have more diversity among the newer lawyer attendees.

Then, there was an extended discussion regarding a Law School scholarship for a new lawyer to practice law in an underserved area of WV. Numerous comments were made. It was agreed that additional information would be gathered and that it would be an agenda item at the next Board meeting.

As her Presidential appointments, she recommended:

Nominating Committee-VP Gray, Secretary/Treasurer Eros and Santa Barbara  
Audit Committee-Officers (Boylen, Gray and Eros)  
Foundation Fellows Nominating Committee-J Moats, Shaffer and Morris  
Grants Committee-J Griffith, Bolen and Cappellanti  
Justice Fund-Boylen, Gray, Jividen, Stowers and Weber  
Strategic Planning Committee-Officers, Ford and McDiarmid

A motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve the plans and appointments of Vice President Boylen.

Vice President Boylen recommended to the Board that the Bar Foundation contract for another year of services with Herman and Cormany (Independent Audit), Gibbons and Kawash (Monthly bank reconciliation) and Merrill Lynch (Justice Fund). A motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve these three service agreements.

Mr. Tinder made a report and a motion was duly made, seconded and passed to make a $150 Bar Foundation donation to the Joint Fellows Luncheon to be held at the WV Bar Association meeting in August. Similar donations have been made for the past several years. In addition, a motion was duly made, seconded and passed to select new Board members Cappellanti, Morris and Stowers to sign Bar Foundation checks, in accordance with the recommendations from the Independent Auditor.

Vice President Boylen made some comments concerning the employment contact with Mr. Tinder. Then, a motion was duly made, seconded and passed to continue the employment contract between the Bar Foundation and Mr. Tinder for the 2016-17 fiscal year under the same terms and conditions.

Vice President Boylen announced that the Board of Directors meetings would be held at 12:00 Noon on the following dates:  
 Thursday, September 1, 2016  
 Thursday, December 1, 2016  
 Thursday, March 2, 2017  
 Thursday, June 1, 2017  
  
  
 There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned.