WEST VIRGINIA BAR FOUNDATION  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
 VARGO ROOM-ERICKSON ALUMNI CENTER-MORGANTOWN  
 SEPTEMBER 15, 2017-1:15 NOON

MINUTES

The meeting of the West Virginia Bar Foundation’s Board of Directors was called to order by President Ken Gray, on September 15, 2017, at 1:15 PM, in the Vargo Room of the Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown.

Board Members in attendance were Ellen Cappellanti, Lucien Lewin, Christy Morris, Chip Shaffer, Gerry Stowers and Tracey Weber, III. Participating by telephone conference call were Vice President Rich Ford, Secretary/Treasurer Mary Clare Eros, Judge Alan Moats and Richard Bolen. Bar Foundation Executive Director Tom Tinder was 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 June 1, 2017. A motion was duly made, seconded and passed that the Minutes be approved.

President Gray called upon Secretary/Treasurer Eros to present the financial report. She stated that Independent Auditor will review the 2016-17 finances and present his report during the December 7, 2017, Board meeting. The unaudited 2016-17 Financial Report shows a deficit of $9,288, but that is because the Officers agreed to use money in the administrative bank account instead of transferring money out of the Justice Fund, as contained in the approved budget. If the full $30,000 has been transferred, there would have been an end of year surplus of more than $20,000.

The two month financial report for the current 2017-18 fiscal year is unremarkable except that the “Contributions” line item includes the $1,500 payment from LexisNexis for the Partnerships in Success Award and the $1,076 “Miscellaneous” expense item as reimbursement for Jodie Boylen’s travel to New York to accept the Award. The Bar Foundation’s checking account is low based upon the action taken by the Officers at the end of last fiscal year. The Justice Fund was $664,591 at the last Board meeting on June 1 with the amount on September 5, 2017, being $668,549 and reaching the $1 million goal will be discussed as a separate agenda item.

After some comments, a motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve the Financial Report.

President Gray discussed several actions in the Strategic Plan, including the successful 7th Lunch and Laughs, which had just occurred, with WVU Provost Joyce McConnell as the honoree. The 20th Bar Foundation Fellows Dinner has been set for April 26, 2018, at the Marriott Hotel in Charleston and the highly rated 7th Lawyer Leadership Institute is planned for May 18-20, 2018, at Stonewall Resort.

The next agenda item was the Justice Fund report with the Fund Raising Campaign goal of $1 million for three years, that began in 12/14 and is set to conclude in December, 2017. President Gray provided the following recommendations for review and consideration:

1. Solicit $500 donations from Board members who have not donated already.

Of the current 15 Board members, six have not donated yet (Cappellanti, Griffith, Morris, Shaffer, Stowers and Weber). All of them became Board members after the Board made the commitment to request $500 (lump sum or in three annual payments) from all Board members in 2014. Incidentally, some Board members volunteered to make $500 for three consecutive years. The total amount generated would be $3,000. An email request would be sent from President Gray to the six Board members by October 1, requesting payment before December 31.

1. Have Board members solicit Fellows in their area and/or law office (College of Law-McDiarmid) for $500 donations.

There are approximately 300 Fellows and just about 40 have made their $500 donations already. There are two Board members (Judges Griffith and Moats) who cannot solicit for funds. Therefore, the remaining thirteen Board members would have about 20 persons to contact using prepared email or telephone scripts. The amount generated could be as much as $130,000. Contacts to be made between October 2 and November 3, requesting payment before December 31.

1. Giving Tuesday-November 28, 2017

For the past five years, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving has been designated, internationally, as Giving Tuesday---an opportunity for people to make donations to their favorite charitable organization on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. (It is a follow-up to the big buying days of Black Friday-the day after Thanksgiving-and Cyber Monday-the Monday after Thanksgiving.) In 2016, 1.56 million gifts were made totaling $168 million or an average gift of $107.  An email would be sent to all 5,000 WV lawyers asking them to make a $100 donation to the Justice Fund on Giving Tuesday. The short, hard hitting email would be sent on Monday, November 13. The cost would be approximately $400 ( cost of mailing list from State Bar) and it could generate hundreds of thousands of dollars. By tying it to an international activity, it will, hopefully, have greater impact at a very minimal financial cost.

1. Follow-up by December 31.

Based upon the success of the first three activities, personal contacts could be made by email or telephone with viable people during the month of December to make one final pitch for a donation, especially if needed to get to the $1 million goal. A list of these contacts would be distributed at the December 7 Board meeting with the contacts being made before Christmas.

The Board members had a full discussion concerning the proposal and a suggestion was made to attempt to have an article, authored by President Gray, placed in the December, 2017, issue of the WV Lawyer magazine and that the article be used as an ongoing marketing piece.

After more comments, a motion was duly made, seconded and approved to follow through with the recommended plan of action and the additional WV Lawyer magazine suggestion.

Mr. Bolen gave the Grants Committee report that the current 2017-2018 budget includes $50,000 for grants. The Board has already approved the continuation of the Public Service Scholarship at the WVU College of Law and the amount will be approximately $22,000. Therefore, there is a remainder of $28,000 until June, 2018.

             Based upon actions taken during its meeting, the Committee members made recommendations on four grant applications:

1. WV Child Advocacy Network-$3,000-Design a forensic interviewing expert consultation pilot program.

A Bar Foundation grant was provided in March, 2016, to this organization for child abuse prevention summits for prosecuting attorneys and circuit court judges. After some discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed to recommend to the Board that a $3,000 grant be approved.

1. WV Lawyer Assistance Program-$5,000-Second annual grant to support program to assist lawyers with drug/alcohol/mental problems.

The Board agreed last year to make $5,000 annual grants to the Lawyer Assistance Program for five years for a total of $25,000. The grant was used to pay the expenses for the first annual WVLAP Board of Directors Working Retreat and Strategic Planning Conference. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to recommend to the Board that the second annual grant of $5,000 be approved.

1. Child Protect of Mercer County-$2,250-Provide series of character building workshops to elementary school children.

Bar Foundation grants have been made to this organization in September, 2014, for child victim forensic interviews ($2,000)  and in December, 2015, for Counseling Services-Child Victims of Crime ($2,500) with an additional grant ($1,500) in June, 2016, to supplement the December, 2015 grant. After discussion, a motion was duly made, seconded and passed to recommend to the Board that a grant of $2,250 for character building workshops for elementary school children be approved. Judge Griffith abstained from the formal discussion and vote on this matter.

1. Philanthropy WV-$4,000-Philanthropic Legal and Policy Fellowship for law student at WVU College of Law.

In September, 2015, a $3,500 grant was made for a similar Fellowship at the Law School. The law student who served as that Fellow, Jackson Butler, gave a report presentation during the April, 2017, Bar Foundation Fellows Dinner. After discussion and questions, it was decided to defer any action on this grant application until the next Committee meeting and to obtain additional information relating to the benefits and long term applicability of this Fellowship.

A motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve the Grants Committee’s recommendations regarding the four grant applications.

Mr. Tinder gave his Executive Director’s report by stating that the Bar Foundation was presented with the prestigious Partnerships for Success Award during the American Bar Association Annual Meeting in New Yok City in August. Immediate Past President Boylen accepted the award from LexisNexis during a joint luncheon and then made a presentation to the National Conference of Bar Foundations. The award was in recognition of the Bar Foundation grant to the WVU Law School new student legal clinic in Beckley and Professors Kendra Fershee and Josh Fershee participated in the New York City events as representatives of the College of Law.

Then, he again expressed his utmost appreciation to the Board for its action in providing a generous increase in his salary from $14,000 to $20,000 during the June Board meeting. However, he respectfully refused to accept the increase because of his enjoyment in working for the Bar Foundation and the Board, as well as the fact that the funds could be used more effectively for Bar Foundation grants and programs. Therefore, he had not been taking the increase in salary and would not do so in the future. Board members expressed their thanks to him.

Vice President Gray announced that the dates and times for the remaining Board of Directors meetings which will be held exclusively by telephone conference call:  
  
 Thursday, December 7, 2017-12:00 Noon  
 Thursday, March 1, 2018-12:00 Noon  
 Thursday, June 7, 2018-12:00 Noon

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned.