WEST VIRGINIA BAR FOUNDATION  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
 VARGO ROOM-ERICKSON ALUMNI CENTER-MORGANTOWN  
 SEPTEMBER 13, 2019-1:30 PM

MINUTES

The meeting of the West Virginia Bar Foundation’s Board of Directors was called to order by President Ellen Cappellanti, on September 13, 2019, at 1:30 PM, in the WVU Board of Governors Room of the Erickson Alumni Center in Morgantown.

Board Members in attendance were Vice President Chip Shaffer, Judge Alan Moats, Professor Marjorie McDiarmid, Teresa Dumire, Lucien Lewin and Christy Morris. Participating by telephone conference call were Secretary/Treasurer Mary Clare Eros, Immediate Past President Rich Ford, Gerry Stowers and Tracey Weber. 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 6, 2019. A motion was duly made, seconded and passed that the Minutes be approved.

President Cappellanti called upon Secretary/Treasurer Eros to present the financial report. She stated that the Independent Auditor will review the 2018-19 finances and present his report during the December 5, 2019, Board meeting.

The unaudited 2018-19 Financial Report shows a surplus of $1815 with the vast majority of all the revenue and expense amounts being at or below the budgeted amounts. The most significant figures are the Contributions revenue line item ($30,591) which includes the $25,000 donation by the Anonymous Donor and the Grants expense line item which was $10,000 below the budgeted amount. Incidentally, the Officers did not have to make any money transfer from the Justice Fund, as had been approved by the Board at its June Board meeting.

She also stated that the two month financial report for the current 2019-2020 fiscal year does not contain any revenue or expense items of concern. At the bottom of the page, the Bar Foundation’s checking account is in its normal low position based upon only two months of activities.

Finally, the Justice Fund amounts for the past year were $649,000 (9/18), $636,000 (12/18), $655,000 (3/19) and $663,000 (5/19). The current amount ($703,699) includes the first two $5,000 monthly payments by the Anonymous Donor (July and August) and the new interest bearing Grants Account, approved by the Board, in which the WV Bar Association loan payments are placed to be used to make grants, if needed.

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

President Cappellanti discussed several actions in the Strategic Plan, including the successful 9th Lunch and Laughs, which had just occurred, with Judge Advocate General Ken Gray as the honoree. There were Board comments regarding the inspiring nature of the Lunch. It was agreed that Board members would suggest persons to be considered for the 2020 honoree with a decision to be made at the next Board meeting on December 5, 2019.

She continued by referencing the 22nd Bar Foundation Fellows Dinner that has been set for April 23, 2020, at the Marriott Hotel in Charleston and the highly rated 9th Lawyer Leadership Institute, which is planned for May 15-17, 2020, at Stonewall Resort.

Regarding Bar Foundation grants, President Cappellanti said that no new grant applications had been received since the last Board meeting. She said that the Strategic Planning Committee had talked about grant making opportunities, especially concerning internships at civil legal services organizations in the State.

Based upon contacts which had been made, Legal Aid of WV has summer interns (this year, 8 interns at a cost of $5,000 each) and three interns working pro bono. A possible opportunity is a summer intern fellowship for a person of color in 2020 at a cost of $5,500.

The Senior Legal Aid program has a desire to hire an estate planning lawyer at a cost of $8,500 and interest for action in home improvement and elder abuse areas of the law. Mountain State Justice has an interest in summer interns. It was agreed that these entities would be given the suggestion to consider applying for Bar Foundation grants during the current fiscal year in the $3,000-$5,000 average range for grants.

President Cappellanti reported that the Strategic Planning Committee had considered the need for additional revenue from Bar Foundation programs that had not had changes in fees for 10 to 20 years. The Committee recommended the following changes:

* Request all new Board members to make a tax deductible donation to the Bar Foundation up to the amount of $500, as had occurred during the initial Justice Fund campaign.
* Increase the Foundation Fellows Dinner Sponsor table fee from $1,500 to $2,000.
* Increase the Lawyer Leadership Institute Registration fee from $495 to $550.
* Increase the Bar Foundation Fellows tax deductible fee from $2,000 to $2,500.

After some discussion, a motion was duly made, seconded and passed to approve these fee increases.

The Board members had an extended discussion concerning the need to better market the Bar Foundation, its programs and activities in order to educate the judges, lawyers and general public regarding the organization’s value and benefits.

The Board members then had a discussion regarding the feasibility of being involved in a WV Supreme Court Candidates Forum in the Spring, 2020, as a Co-Sponsor or by providing a Bar Foundation grant. After comments concerning the three positions on the Court up for election, the possibility of Forums being held and possibly the lack of contested races, it was decided that no action would be taken at this time.

Mr. Tinder gave his Executive Director’s report by distributing the necessary Conflict of Interest forms to the Board members in attendance and stating that it would be sent to the other Board members for their signatures.

President Cappellanti announced the dates and times for the remaining Board of Directors meetings which will be held exclusively by telephone conference call:  
  
 Thursday, December 5, 2019-12:00 Noon  
 Thursday, March 5, 2020-12:00 Noon  
 Thursday, June 4, 2020-12:00 Noon

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