



State Bar Association
of North Dakota

SBAND Board of Governors

Zoom Conference Call

February 5, 2021
3:00 PM

Minutes

Members Present: Carrie Francis, President; Aubrey Zuger; Judge Daniel Traynor; Dean Michael McGinniss; Jennifer Albaugh; Brady Pelton; Debra Hoffarth; Taylor Olson; Ted Sandberg; Jordan Selinger; Joshua Frey; Paul Myerchin

Members Absent: Judge Doug Bahr; Rob Manly; Tonya Duffy

Staff Members Present: Tony Weiler; Jeanne Schlittenhard

President Francis called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Meeting Minutes November 20, 2020; December 9, 2020; January 26, 2021

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2020; December 9, 2020; and January 26, 2021 meetings. [T. Sandberg / B Pelton] Motion carried.

Financial Statements and vouchers October and November 2020

Secretary-Treasurer Manly and Executive Director Weiler met prior to the meeting to review the financial information for October and November 2020. No areas of concern were identified.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to receive the financials. [A. Zuger / D. Traynor] Motion carried.

Family Law Section By-Laws

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the Family Law Section By-Laws as written and submitted. [D. Hoffarth / T. Sandberg] Motion carried.

Board Appointments / Reappointments / Recommendations to the Court

Joint Committee on Attorney Standards

The Board considered three individuals for three openings on the committee: Taylor Olson and William Guy (both eligible for reappointment) and Kevin Chapman.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to reappoint Taylor Olson and William Guy and to appoint Kevin Chapman to the Joint Committee on Attorney Standards. (M. McGinniss / P. Myerchin). Motion carried.

Joint Procedures Committee

The Board considered one individual for one opening on the committee: Kellen Bubach.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to appoint Kellen Bubach to the Joint Procedures Committee. (D. Hoffarth / J. Frey) Motion carried.

SBAND Survey – Board Discussion

Executive Director Weiler reported SBAND staff is continuing to look at ways to expand pro bono services to the public and opportunities for attorneys. The *pro bono* self-reporting option is now available on the SBAND website. This is for attorneys to submit and track *pro bono* hours.

Retired lawyers and judges can be great resources for SBAND and Executive Director Weiler and staff is looking at opportunities for their expertise.

Action: No action taken.

ABA Report from Hon. Daniel Traynor

- Judge Traynor reported on recent and upcoming ABA meetings. Resolutions for the House of Delegates includes (but not limited to): student loan debts; social and electoral issues, uniform state laws, 2020 census, firearms. Look for information on this and other activities in the ABA Delegate column in the next *Gavel*
- Board members should notify North Dakota's ABA Delegates, Judge Jim Hill and/or Judge Traynor if they or their district's attorneys are interested in serving on an ABA Committee.

Action: No action taken.

Law School Update from Dean Michael McGinniss

- Dean McGinniss reported it is seven weeks until start of Spring Semester
- Students have adapted well to the blended courses format
- Plans are underway for the fall schedule. Applications are up 40%
- Dean McGinniss extended thanks to the North Dakota Bar Foundation for the support of the NALSA Competition
- Plans are underway for summer externships
- The Law School continues preparation for ABA site visit
- Dean McGinniss updated the board on the Family Law Clinical Practicum Clinic
- Look for information on this and other activities in the Dean's column in the next *Gavel*

Action: No action taken.

SBAND President's Report

- President Francis reported she and Executive Director Weiler continue to meet with local bar associations.
- SBAND website has form on-line for reporting *pro bono* hours
- SBAND continues to investigate health insurance (group policy) options
- Mid-year National Association of Bar Presidents will be held via ZOOM conference and President Francis plans on attending

Action: No action taken.

Executive Director's Report

- Mid-year National Association of Bar Executives will be held via ZOOM conference
- Wednesday Wellness webinars are scheduled
- SBAND offered Free Ethics CLE which includes elimination of bias hours
- Energy Law CLE is being planned for May
- Annual Meeting planning is underway. Still undecided about including a hybrid option
- Reminded SBAND Board that at the April 23rd meeting, 2021 award recipients will be chosen
- Executive Director Weiler updated the Board on Legislative activities. SBAND website has a legislative update banner on home page that gives up to date information on the bills SBAND is following
- SBAND is looking at ways to engage retired and inactive lawyers and judges

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeanne Schlittenhard
Associate Director


Tony J. Weiler
Executive Director