



State Bar Association
of North Dakota

SBAND Board of Governors

SBAND Office
Bismarck, ND

September 18, 2020
4:00 PM

Minutes

Members Present: Carrie Francis, President; Aubrey Fiebelkorn Zuger; Hon. Doug Bahr; Rob Manly; Hon. Daniel Traynor; Dean Michael McGinniss; Tonya Duffy; Ted Sandberg; Taylor Olson; Debra Hoffarth; Jordan Selinger; Brady Pelton; Joshua Frey; Paul Myerchin

Members Absent: Jennifer Albaugh

Staff Members Present: Tony Weiler; Jeanne Schlittenhard

President Francis called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes June 11, 2020 and July 9, 2020 [Attachment #1]

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2020 and July 9, 2020 meetings. [D. Traynor / T. Olson]. Motion carried.

Financial Statements and vouchers April, May, June, and July 2020 [Attachments #2]

Executive Director Weiler reviewed the financial statements and has met with Secretary-Treasurer Manly prior to the meeting. No areas of concern were identified. Expenses for 2020 are mostly lower than budget because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to receive the financials. [D. Bahr / M. McGinniss] Motion carried.

Revised Financial Audit Report [Attachment #3]

Brady Martz revised the Audit Report of the 2019 SBAND financials. The revision was a reclassification of client protection money to restricted funds.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to receive the revised Financial Audit Report. [D. Hoffarth / D. Bahr] Motion carried.

Revised Reserve Fund Policy [Attachment #4]

As a result of the Revised Financial Audit Report, the SBAND Reserve Fund Policy was revised and presented to the Board of Governors for approval.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the Revised Reserve Fund Policy. [T. Sandberg / T. Olson] Motion carried.

SBAND Website – Wefald proposal on book *Moments* – Review of SBAND Gavel Editorial Policy [Attachment #5]

The Board was provided an Editorial Policy for review. Executive Director Weiler emphasized that Sheldon Smith (Chair) and Editorial Committee does review and approve all submissions to *The Gavel*.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the Editorial Policy. [D. Bahr / B. Pelton] Motion carried.

Appointments /Reappointments / Recommendations to the Court

State Board of Law Examiners

Brad Beehler has completed his first term on the State Board of Law Examiners. He has been an outstanding member and is eligible for reappointment.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to reappoint Brad Beehler to the State Board of Law Examiners. [D. Traynor / T. Sandberg] Motion carried.

SBAND Survey

Executive Director Weiler discussed the SBAND Survey. The Board of Governors will be focusing on the Survey at each of the upcoming meetings.

Pro Bono work is the discussion for this meeting.

- Executive Director Weiler talked about rule changes with regard to limited scope pro bono work.
- More engagement with the Volunteer Lawyer Program
- SBAND Volunteer Lawyer Program has received a grant in the amount of \$2,000 from Fredrikson & Byron
- SBAND continues to work closely with Legal Services of North Dakota
- Pro Bono heroes are recognized through the SBAND Justice For All Program
- The majority of placements in the Volunteer Lawyer Program is through the Reduce Fee Program
- Executive Director Weiler will work with staff to identify ways to involve more attorneys to serve more of the public

SBAND Executive Director Evaluation Process

Secretary-Treasurer Rob Manly agreed to oversee the process. He will be identifying committee/section chairs to be involved in the evaluation and will send evaluation forms to Board members, staff, and identified committee/section chairs.

Action: No action required.

Law School Update from Dean Michael McGinniss

Dean McGinniss updated the Board of Governors on the activities of the UND School of Law.

- First Semester enrollment is at full class
- ND Bar Exam results was an 87% first pass rate
- First year students will be on-campus. Plans for Second Semester are relatively unchanged from First Semester as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be an issue

ABA Report from Hon. Daniel Traynor

Judge Traynor reported that the ABA Annual meeting was virtual. The House of Delegates met in August and considered several resolutions. The ABA is focusing on cost cuts and will most likely be featuring the ABA Mid-Year Meetings virtual for the next several years. North Dakota ABA Delegate Judge James Hill is serving on the nominating committee.

He stated his article in the next *Gavel* will include more detailed information.

SBAND President's Report from Carrie Francis

- President Francis stated she and Executive Director Weiler will attend local bar meetings when the uncertainty with the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided
- President Francis is working with Executive Director Weiler to obtain information from Blue Cross / Blue Shield to see if SBAND could/would qualify for group health insurance
- President Francis encouraged to the Board Members to review the SBAND Survey. The Board will continue to discuss at meetings.

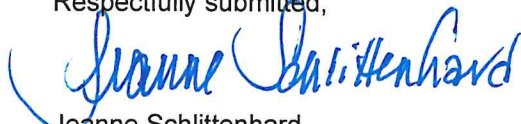
Executive Director's Report

- The Annual Meeting Survey was positive, and the Board Members were provided a copy of the survey
- He provided an update on staff activities
- The North Dakota Bar Foundation has committed to supporting organizations that align with the mission of the Foundation. The Board approved \$200,000 over the next four years for organizations as approved by the Board. Members of the SBAND Board of Governors were encouraged to refer organizations as possible recipients of the designated funding

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeanne Schlittenhard
Associate Director


Tony J. Weiler
Executive Director