



State Bar Association
of North Dakota

SBAND Board of Governors

ZOOM Conference Call

November 20, 2020

3:00 PM

Minutes

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

Staff Members Present: Tony Weiler; Jeanne Schlittenhard

President Francis called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM

Meeting Minutes September 18, 2020

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2020 meeting. [D. Traynor / B. Pelton] Motion carried.

Financial Statements August 2020

Executive Director Weiler and Secretary-Treasurer Manly reviewed the financial statements prior to the meeting. There were no concerns with the financials.

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

2021 Budget

The SBAND Executive Committee has reviewed the 2021 SBAND Budget and has presented the budget to the Board of Governors. Executive Director Weiler reviewed the Revenue and Expense Budgets and addressed any questions or concerns from the Board.

At this point in the meeting Executive Director Weiler and Ms. Schlittenhard were not present. The Board of Governors revised the proposed salaries for 2021.

Action #2: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the proposed SBAND 2021 Budget with salaries as discussed and approved by the Board. Motion carried by consensus of the Board.

Board Appointments / Recommendations

Disciplinary Board – South Central Judicial District

Three attorneys are considered for recommendation to the court: Betsy Elsberry (Bismarck); J. P. Bialke (Mandan); and Benjamin Sand (Mandan).

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to recommend Betsy Elsberry ; J. P. Bialke; and Benjamin Sand for the Court's consideration for appointment to the Disciplinary Board. [D. Traynor /D. Bahr] Motion carried.

Lawyer Assistance Program Committee

One attorney is considered for the opening on the Lawyer Assistance Program Committee – Diane Wehrman.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to reappoint Diane Wehrman to the Lawyer Assistance Program Committee. [D. Traynor / B. Pelton]. Motion carried.

Joint Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee

One attorney was considered for the opening on the Joint Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee: Rachel Thomason (eligible for reappointment).

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to reappoint Rachel Thomason to the Joint Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee. [J. Albaugh / D. Bahr]. Motion carried.

SBAND Survey – Board Discussion

Executive Director Weiler discussed the SBAND Survey. The Board of Governors will continue to focus on the Survey at meetings.

Advocacy / legislative efforts is the discussion for this meeting.

- Executive Director Weiler talked about legislative committee. There are 15 members on this committee, most have been serving as lobbyists, all have been valuable members to SBAND. The Legislative Committee will meet each Monday during the first part of the legislative session, providing a report to the Board of Governors on recommended positions.
- SBAND sections are to act on bill positions only as approved by the Board of Governors

Law School Update from Dean Michael McGinniss

Dean McGinniss updated the Board on Law School activities. He commented on the recent *Gavel* edition with the Law School features. He reported all final exams will be on-line and he discussed the structure of the spring semester. There is an ABA site visit scheduled for March 2021. Board member Judge Traynor offered support for the law school budget during the upcoming legislative session.

ABA Delegate Report from Honorable Daniel Traynor

The ABA will conduct the August Annual Meeting via ZOOM conference as well as the Mid-Year February meeting scheduled in Chicago will be remote. The House of Delegates last met virtually and the Annual Meeting and the voting process worked well. Judge Traynor encouraged Board members to consider applying for ABA Committee membership.

SBAND President's Report

President Francis reported she and Executive Director Weiler have scheduled ZOOM meetings with several of the local bar associations. SBAND continues to explore the membership group insurance rate issue.

Executive Director's Report

- Executive Director Weiler updated the Board on staff issues
- He updated the Board on his activities with the National Association of Bar Executives Board of Directors
- 2020 award recipients - still planning lunches with Board members and recipients to recognize and congratulate the recipients
- Board members should start considering nominations for the 2021 awards
- The Judicial Nominating Committee will soon be meeting to provide recommendations to Governor Burgum on the open judgeship in the Northeast judicial district because of the retirement of Judge Laurie Fontaine

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne Schlittenhard
Associate Director



Tony J. Weiler
Executive Director