



State Bar Association
of North Dakota

SBAND Board of Governors

SBAND Office / Telephone Conference Call
Bismarck, ND

April 24, 2020
3:00 PM

Minutes

Members Present: Aubrey Fiebelkorn-Zuger, President; Zack Pelham; Carrie Francis; Pat Ward; Dan Traynor; Dean Michael McGinniss; Tonya Duffy; Jennifer Albaugh; Christina Wenko; Judge Doug Bahr; Andrew Askew; Debra Hoffarth; Taylor Olson; Judge Mike Hurly; Ted Sandberg
Staff Members Present: Tony Weiler; Jeanne Schlittenhard

President Zuger called the meeting to order at 3:09 PM.

Meeting Minutes November 23, 2019 and January 24, 2020 [Attachment #1]

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to approve the minutes of November 23, 2019 and February 23, 2020. [D. Traynor / T. Olson] Motion carried.

Financial Statements and vouchers December 2019 and January and February 2020 [Attachments #2]

Secretary-Treasurer Ward and Executive Director Weiler met prior to the meeting to review the financial information for December 2019 and January and February 2020. No areas of concern were identified.

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

Project Rural Practice

Hon. M. Hurly provided a report on South Dakota's Rural Attorney Recruitment Program. Judge Hurly is presenting the information to utilize in North Dakota.

Recommendation / Conclusion: The Board discussed the value to a Project Rural Practice. It was recommended that volunteers from the Board participate in this project. T. Olson, M. McGinniss and Executive Director Weiler will be available to work with Judge Hurly on North Dakota's Project Rural Practice.

Action: No action required.

Fleck v. Wetch Update

Executive Director Weiler updated the Board on the final decision from the US Supreme Court. SBAND will continue to do the work of the Association. The Futures Task Force will be meeting soon.

Action: No action required

Board Appointments /Reappointments / Recommendations to the Court

Operations Committee of the Disciplinary Board

The Board considered one individual for one opening on the committee: Tom Traynor is eligible for reappointment.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to reappointment Tom Traynor for an additional term on the Operations Committee of the Disciplinary Board. (D. Bahr / M. McGinniss). Motion carried. Dan Traynor abstained from voting.

North Dakota Bar Foundation Board of Directors

The Board considered three individuals for three openings on the Foundation Board of Directors: Charles DeMakis; Lori Conroy; Meredith Larson. All are eligible for reappointment.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to reappointment Charles DeMakis, Lori Conroy, and Meredith Larson to the North Dakota Bar Foundation Board of Directors. (D. Bahr / M. McGinniss) Motion carried.

SUBSEQUENT NOTE: Lori Conroy holds an elected position and will be placed on the agenda of the membership meeting of the North Dakota Bar Foundation soon.

Pattern Jury Instruction Commission

The Board considered eight individuals for two openings on the committee: Amanda Corey, Stephen Hanson, Jackson Lofgren, Ryan McCamy, Nicholas Samuelson, David Schweigert, Nathan Severson, Jack Zuger.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to appoint Jack Zuger and Ryan McCamy to the Pattern Jury Instruction Commission. (D. Traynor / J. Albaugh). Motion carried.

Annual Meeting and Awards 2020

As a result of the COVID-19 virus and the recommendations from the CDC on social gatherings, the Board of Governors discussed the 2020 Annual Meeting and should the meeting remain as scheduled, go virtual, reschedule the meeting, or cancel the annual meeting.

Recommendation / Conclusion: After extensive discussion, the Board of Governors is recommending the meeting scheduled for June 10-12 be rescheduled for August 12-14, in Grand Forks.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to postpone the Annual Meeting to the time frame of August 12-14, in Grand Forks, and that the Board of Governors consider again at a meeting scheduled in June 2020. [D. Traynor T. Sandberg] Motion carried.

Awards 2019

Distinguished Service Award

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to award the 2020 Distinguished Service Award to Michael J. Williams - Fargo. [D. Traynor / A. Zuger] Motion carried.

Legislative Service Award

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to award the 2020 Legislative Service Award to Representative Mark Sanford [Z. Pelham / M. McGinniss] Motion carried.

Gerald W. VandeWalle Medal

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to award the 2020 Gerald W. VandeWalle Medal to Penny Miller. [D. Bahr / M. McGinniss] Motion carried.

Liberty Bell Award

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to award the 2020 Liberty Bell Award to Mike Jacobs. [D. Traynor / T. Sandberg] Motion carried.

Community Service Awards

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to award the 2020 Community Service Award to: Hon. Daniel Narum, Nicholas Thornton, and Matthew Sagsveen. [C. Francis / J. Albaugh] Motion carried.

Law School Update from Dean Michael McGinniss

Dean McGinniss reported on the impacts of the Law School because of the pandemic. Classes have been moved to on-line sessions. The faculty and staff are prepared to continue delivering high quality education to the students. Dean McGinniss reported on faculty updates. He talked about the budget and thanked SBAND for continued support of the Law School.

Action: No action taken.

ABA Report from Dan Traynor

Judge Traynor reported the April ABA Days were cancelled for in-person meeting and held virtual secondary to the pandemic. ALI meeting has been cancelled. Judge Traynor reported the in-coming ABA President has asked Hon. James Hill to be the chairman of Committee appointments. If Board members are interested or know of North Dakota attorneys interested in serving on an ABA Committee, please contact him.

Action: No action taken.

SBAND President's Report

President Zuger stated the Moorhead State University of Minnesota is closing the paralegal program because of budget cuts. The paralegal program has been of critical importance to practicing attorneys in North Dakota.

Action: It was duly moved and seconded to send a letter to the President of the University on behalf of the State Bar Association of North Dakota to request MSUM reconsider the decision to cut the program and to offer assistance from SBAND in making their determination. [Z. Pelham / J. Albaugh]. Motion carried.

Executive Director's Report

Staff Update was presented. Deodar Eisenbraun has transitioned to full time administrative assistant.

Executive Director Weiler reported he was re-elected to the NABE Board of Directors. He thanked the Board for the support of his participation on this national association board.

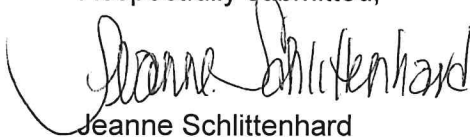
Other Business

The Ward County Bar Association is participating in a pay-it-forward program next week. Board member C. Francis is active in this project. In addition, Board member J. Albaugh stated attorneys in Fargo are also participating in similar programs.

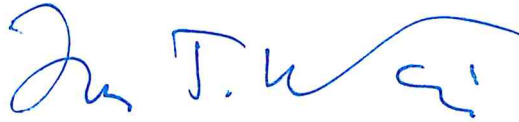
The Board of Governors will meet in June in Fargo.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeanne Schlittenhard
Associate Director



Tony J. Weiler
Executive Director