The Maine State Bar Association promotes the honor, dignity and professionalism of lawyers, advances the knowledge, skills and interests of its members, and supports the public interest in a fair and effective system of justice.

Antitrust Statement

The Maine State Bar Association (MSBA) is organized to promote the honor, dignity and professionalism of lawyers; advance the knowledge, skills and interests of its members; and support the public interest in a fair and effective system of justice. The MSBA, its officers, Board of Governors and employees shall not, and do not, play any role in the competitive decisions of its members or their employees, or in any way restrict competition in any aspect of the legal profession. By adoption of this statement of policy, the MSBA makes clear its unequivocal support for the fair and effective policy of competition served by the antitrust laws and its uncompromising intent to comply strictly in all respects with those laws.

Members Present: Bishop, Burbank, Columber, Day, Deschuytner, Driscoll, Dunitz (phone), Haddow, Johnson, Kreckel, McDonald, S. Smith (phone), Stitham and Willey.


Staff Present: Weston

Item 1. Accepted Items 1A – 1B.

A. Approved minutes of the May 21, 2019 meeting.
B. Set the date of next Board of Governors meeting for Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at Bar Headquarters. The Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at Bar Headquarters in Augusta.

Item 2. Treasurer’s report.

A. Accept May 2019 financial statement: This item was passed over and will be reviewed at the August 20, 2019 meeting.


The judge panel (President Columber, Past President Driscoll and ED Weston) voted on the winners for the essay and poster contest. Winners were notified and prizes were mailed prior to school closing for the summer. Winners in each category are:
1st place essay: “Boundaries on My Freedoms” by Kaelyn Lawlor, grade 9, Hodgdon Middle/High School, Hodgdon (Aroostook County). Teacher: Linda Garcia
2nd place essay: “Freedom of Speech and Press with Minor Limitations” by Meghan Peters, grade 9, Hodgdon Middle/High School, Hodgdon (Aroostook County). Teacher: Linda Garcia

Art poster, grades 4-5: Sophie Harmon, grade 5, Beech Hill School, Otis (Hancock County). Teacher: Miranda Grant

Art poster, grades 6-8: Samuel Dyndiuk, grade 6, Beech Hill School, Otis (Hancock County). Teacher: Miranda Grant

President Elect Day recommended a requirement that winners must be from different schools, and that teachers cannot win in more than one category. President Columber and Past President Driscoll indicated that the review of the entries as well as the final vote was blind—the judge panel did not know any information about the entrants before voting on the winners. Other Governors recommended that we not implement any restrictions on the winners at this time. No official action was taken.

Item 4. Legislative update.

A. Report from Legislative Review and Response Committee Chair.

Vice President McDonald reported that the legislative session is wrapping up and should close within the next couple of days. There is still one MCILS seat open, which belongs to either the MSBA or MACDL. At this time, the Governor is not willing to fill the seat and has not officially indicated which seat she did not fill.

Governors requested that we make MSBA testimony available to members. ED Weston stated that she will have the testimony and SJC comments posted to the website ASAP.

Item 5. Board of Governors reports.

A. President-Elect Day.

1. 2020 Meetings update: The 2020 ABC will be held on January 30-31, 2020 at The Westin Portland Harborview in Portland. The 2020 Summer Bar Conference will be held on June 24-26, 2020 at the Harborside Hotel, Marina & Spa in Bar Harbor.

2. Finance Committee Meeting: 9:00 a.m. on July 30, 2019 at Bar Headquarters. Please let ED Weston know if you would like to serve on the Finance Committee.

3. Represented the MSBA at the University of Maine School of Law Commencement on May 25th, and presented the MSBA Pro Bono Student Award to Greta Lozada.

B. Vice President McDonald reported that he plans to speak with Chief Justice Saufley about his ideas for 2021 meetings, and request that the Judicial Branch take part in at least one of the meetings.

C. Immediate Past President Driscoll reported that she attended the NEBA Board of Directors meeting on June 14. Discussion included Law Day events and publications for graduating high school seniors. The MSBA has a similar publication entitled “On Your Own.” ED Weston reported that many years ago it was a printed publication but costs became prohibitive, forcing the Board to change it to an online publication. The
New Lawyers Section is responsible for reviewing/updating the publication annually.

D. Other Governors: no reports.

**Item 6. Executive Director’s report.**

A. Reported that she was able to update the MSBA – Judicial Branch CLE agreement for another year. The JB will pay the MSBA a lump sum of $5,000 for JB employees to attend MSBA CLE programs at no additional cost. The agreement does not include free attendance at the annual or summer membership meetings.

B. Reported that the MSBA Title Standards have been submitted to Casemaker. The Casemaker staff will make the Title Standards a searchable document with links, with the goal of having the Title Standards available online for all members on the Casemaker site. This will save the MSBA a great deal of staff time and money by not having to print and mail updates.

**Item 7. President’s report.**

A. Reported that Annual Bar Conference is sold out at 150 attendees. The limiting factor for registrations is the venue meeting space. The welcome reception begins at 5:00 p.m. later today. Programming will begin Thursday morning with an opening plenary by ALPS VP Chris Newbold. There will be an awards lunch and a lobster dinner on Thursday as well. Programming will continue on Friday morning, and conclude by 1:00 p.m.

**Item 8. Old business.**

A. Governor liaisons to Sections and Committees.

B. Governor support documents for speaking with or contacting constituents.

Due to time constraints, these items were mentioned but not fully reviewed or discussed. Vice President McDonald requested that we discuss them at the August 20, 2019 Board meeting.

**Item 9. New business.**

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela P. Weston
Executive Director