



NEW LAWYERS SECTION

Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2010

Members Present: Lacey Anderson, Michael Miller, Sam Edmunds, Charlie Delbridge, Christina Weber, Sitso Bediako, Chanel Melin, Evan Weiner, Lisbeth Robinson, Mike Goodwin, Maria Maier, Anna Hornig Nguyen.

Guests Present: Ashley Hacker, MSBA Past President Patrick Kelly, MSBA Executive Director Tim Groshens, Tom Walsh from Volunteer Lawyers Network.

I. Opening Business

- A. Call to Order at 5:48 p.m. at the MSBA offices. Meeting chaired by Chair Lacey Anderson.
- B. Introductions.
- C. Motion to approve the April meeting minutes made by Christina, second by Charlie, passed unanimously.

II. New Business

- A. Elections. Sitso Bediako was nominated for Secretary by the nominating committee. Per the bylaws, the current officers were nominated for the next officer position: Christina Weber for Chair, Charlie Delbridge for Vice Chair, and Sam Edmunds for Treasurer. A motion was made to approve the nominations, which passed unanimously.
- B. LawPAC. Tim G. discussed LawPAC (Lawyers Political Action Committee). The organization has been in existence since 1978. It was reinvigorated recently as part of MSBA's legislative work. It is not a political organization, but is intended to influence legislators in their understanding of the law and the constitutional process. This is just one part of MSBA's legislative function. Sue Holden is the legislative committee chair.

Patrick K. discussed MSBA's work at the legislature itself. There are many people in the legislature that just don't get it. LawPAC operates on money. It is seeking contributions of \$25. Higher donations are not sought. Contributions are accepted on the LawPAC website at www.mnlawpac.com.

- C. Tom W. from VLN discussed mentoring programs. LADC, NLS, bankruptcy and family law sections should work together by assigning a new lawyer to an experienced attorney. People in need of services are ever increasing, especially in the areas of bankruptcy and family law. This program will allow the legal services

agencies to assist more clients with more attorneys with the assistance of experienced attorneys. Tom is seeking one to three NLS volunteers to join the working groups that will design the programs. Lacey requested cards so that new lawyers can contact Tom and volunteer.

- D. Lacey reported for Patrick Thornton. Minnesota Lawyer is starting a blog for young attorneys. It will be contributor driven. They will seek contributions to the blog from new lawyers. Patrick can be reached through Lacey.
- E. Budget. Charlie reported that we have around \$3,700 remaining in the annual budget. Estimate that \$750 or so is dedicated already. So, around \$3,000 is available to spend on the 9 Days in June event.

Christina discussed the 9 Days in June event. It's cheap, full of CLEs, plus the President's Reception, and the NLS Reception. Christina seeks approval to spend up to \$3,000 on the event. The NLS Reception may include dessert, beverages, and maybe even music. Prior to the NLS event is the President's Reception and the Lawyers with Talent event. The NLS Reception will start around 8:30 p.m. Mike suggested that maybe we can do a hospitality suite after the reception?

Motion by Sam to spend up to \$3,000 at the discretion of the social committee. Passed unanimously.

\$690 had been allocated for Charlie's travel to USVI that now needs to be reallocated. Motion by Charlie to split the \$690 between the five other NLS attendees. Seconded by Chanel. Passed unanimously.

- F. Social. 9 Days in June update. Spring Social was not as well attended as past events: around 50 attendees. Considering new location for next year.
- G. Outreach. Chairs not present.
- H. Community Service. Chair not present. Feed My Starving Children event was successful and fun.
- I. CLE. Today's Employment Law 101 CLE was successful. CLE chairs not present.
- J. YLD USVI conferences. Sam presented Criminal Law 101 CLE. Mike says that Sam did a "very nice job and the CLE was very well attended." Sam blushed.

The next YLD convention is in San Francisco in August. Charlie suggests allocation of \$700 per person for four volunteers. Lacey explains the new way that we have to budget for the annual. The officers suggest that Evan, Christina, Sam, and Jennifer receive funding. Mike so moves, Sitso seconds, passes unanimously.

- K. Hearsay. The spring issue is coming out soon. Summer issue will come out in July and the editors are currently seeking writers.

- L. Charlie moves to allocate \$200 for the NLS spring happy hour tonight. Passes.

III. Reports

A. Officer Reports.

1. Secretary Sam Edmunds. Sam reported that our ABA Grant request was approved for \$900. These funds will go towards NLS implementation of the ABA YLD public service project, Serving Our Seniors. Sam also reported that four NLS leaders were recognized in the Minnesota Lawyers 2010 Up and Coming Attorneys special edition.
2. Treasurer Charlie Delbridge. Liaison statements are due to Charlie by September 2. Also, receipts for USVI need to be turned in. Charlie has heard rumors that our budget request for next year of \$14,500 will be approved in full. Mike says “nice work.”
3. Vice Chair Christina Weber. Next year’s meetings will on the second Thursday of the month starting September 9. Note this change. The NLS bylaws were approved by the MSBA Assembly. Christina seeks statements of interest for committee chairs by June 15. She’ll make appointments by July 1 so that the new chairs can participate in the August planning meeting.
4. Chair Lacey Anderson. Bylaws approved. Lacey thanks Charlie and Sam.

B. Liaison Reports. Brief reports were received regarding the Women Lawyers Committee, the Diversity Taskforce, and the Construction Law Section.

C. ABA Report. Mike discussed upcoming ABA Annual in San Francisco. He’s happy to fill folks in on particular House of Delegates issues prior to the meeting.

Sitso discussed the YLD Touch 10,000 program. The ABA YLD new bar admittee happy hour will be June 17 at the King & I Tai in downtown Minneapolis.

D. Miscellaneous items:

Christina announced that the NLS is recognizing CLE co-chair Margie Jennings Meier for her outstanding work on CLEs. In addition, the NLS is recognizing Lacey for her outstanding work as section chair, and work over the past four plus years.

Sitso encouraged everyone to join the HCBA new lawyers for a Saints game on June 13 (not the 20th). Contact Sitso or the HCBA NLS.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m. without objection.