

**MINUTES – FAMILY LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING
Date: October 8, 2015**

Place: Suburban Showplace, Novi

I. Administrative matters

A. Call to Order and Welcome

Chair Carol Breitmeyer called the meeting to Order. 20 Council Members were present: Daniel Bates, Liz Bransdorfer, Carol Breitmeyer, Matt Catchick, Hon. Richard Halloran, Chris Harrington, James Chryssikos, Sahera Housey, Matt Kobliska, Vanessa Moss-Wilson, Anthea Papista, Steve Reinheimer, Kristin Robinson, Rebecca Shiemke, Amy Spilman, Gail Towne, Bob Treat, Randy Velzen, Kent Weichmann, and Tina Johnson Yost.

Absent: Peter Kulas

Ex-Officio and Former Council Members: Victoria Radke (SBM Liaison), Anne Argiroff, Judith Curtis and Ross Stancati

Guests: Ashley Lowe, Lynn Perry and Rachel Taylor

B. Election of Officers

1. Recording Secretary: Dick Halloran nominated Liz Bransdorfer, Bob Treat seconded the nomination. Tina Yost moved that nominations be closed, Dick Halloran seconded. The motion carried. Liz Bransdorfer was elected by voice vote.
2. Corresponding Secretary: Kent Weichmann nominated Bob Treat, Dick Halloran seconded the nomination. Tina Yost moved that nominations be closed, Amy Spilman seconded. The motion carried. Bob Treat was elected by voice vote.
3. Treasurer: Dick Halloran nominated Kent Weichmann, Sahera Housey seconded the nomination. Tina Yost moved that nominations be closed, Dick Halloran seconded. The motion carried. Kent Weichmann was elected by voice vote.
4. Chair-Elect: Liz Bransdorfer nominated Dick Halloran, Sahera Housey seconded the nomination. Tina Yost moved that nominations be closed, Sahera Housey seconded. The motion carried. Dick Halloran was elected by voice vote.
5. Chair: Council acknowledged that Carol Breitmeyer succeeded to the position of Chair at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, just prior to the start of the Council meeting.

C. Chair Report

Rebecca Shiemke reported that the official gavel she received has been misplaced. Once it has been located, Carol will continue to use that gavel, which will begin a new tradition of passing the gavel, rather than buying a new one for each successive chair.

Carol welcomed and recognized Victoria Radke, the newly appointed State Bar liaison to the Family Law Section. Victoria told Council she is also a member of the Board of Commissioner's Public Policy and Legislative Committee and looked forward to working with the Section on important matters. She can be reached at the Delta County Friend of the Court office.

D. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 12, 2015 Council meeting, as submitted by Bob Treat, were approved on motion by Sahera House, seconded by Dan Bates.

E. Treasurer's Report

No written report. Dick Halloran reported that the section ended the year with a \$116,000 surplus, which is about one-year's budget. This is the State Bar target for sections. He credited the income from the Journal for the ability to meet this target. Kristen Robinson noted that we need new letterhead as soon as possible so we can continue to send invoices in a timely way.

II. Key Committee Reports

A. Amicus

Report given at the Annual Meeting.

B. Court Rules

Report given at the Annual Meeting.

C. Legislative

In addition to the report given at the Annual Meeting, Kent Weichmann reported that the Legislature is looking at bills on e-filing. The State Bar will consider the bills on October 14. He will try to get a summary of the bills to Council members.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Adoption and Assisted Reproductive Technology

No report.

B. Alternative Dispute Resolution

Randy reported that the committee is holding listening sessions, including one at the ADR section meeting and another at the upcoming Family Law Institute.

C. Alternative Family

No report.

D. Annual Meeting and Dinner

No report.

E. CLE/ICLE

No report.

F. Domestic Violence

No report.

G. Family Court Forum

No report.

H. Family Law Journal

No report.

I. Family Law Journal Advertising

Report given at the Annual Meeting.

J. Family Support

No report.

K. Membership

No report.

L. Mid-Winter/Mid-Summer Seminars

No report.

M. Political Action Committee

Ross Stancati reported that Matt Catchick is co-chair of PAC and that it has \$25,290 in its account.

N. QDRO/Taxation

No report.

O. Technology/Social Networking/Website

No report.

IV. Ad Hoc Committees

A. Judicial Recognition

Report given at the Annual Meeting.

V. E-Votes

None noted.

VI. Announcements

Carol also noted that there is real concern that the mandatory joint custody bill is gaining traction in the Legislature and that work there continues on re-writing bills to make them gender neutral following the Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v Hodges*.

VII. Next Meeting [or Future Meetings]

The next meeting will be on Friday, November 13, immediately following the Family Law Institute. Lunch will be provided.

VIII. Adjournment

On motion by Dick Halloran, seconded by Tina Yost, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Bransdorfer,
Recording Secretary