

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY LAW SECTION
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

June 4, 2013, 4:00 p.m.
at Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C.
27777 Franklin Rd, Ste. 2500, Southfield, MI

In attendance: Elaine Pohl, Hal O. Carroll, Kathleen Lopilato, Adam Kutinsky, Lauretta Pominville, Kim Ruppel, Mark Cooper, Deb Hebert, Jim Thome (via telephone), Larry Bennett (via telephone), Catherine Heise (via telephone), Dan Steele (via telephone) and Deb Hebert

Elaine Pohl, Chair called the meeting to order.

Hal O. Carroll moved to approve the prior minutes from the 2/26/13 meeting and Kimberly Ruppel second, so the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Larry Bennett, provided the **treasurer's report** and reported that he has not received updated figures from the State Bar since the last meeting on 2/26/13 at which time our balance was \$37,000. Larry sent a request to the State Bar for updated financial information.

Elaine Pohl proceeded with the **chair report** and stated that the council previously approved her attendance at the Bar Leadership Conference by motion. Additionally, the council approved expenses up to \$700 in connection with the conference. Elaine is currently drafting a short report for use by the State Bar at their annual meeting and will also submit it to the State Bar Journal for use in their publication. Elaine invited the council to comment on the new proposed court rules related to e-filing format, but the board members deferred to the appropriate bar section related to electronic issues.

Elaine reported that she attended a meeting with Candice Crowley and other State Bar representatives. At that meeting, she was approached by council member for the municipal law section about a joint meeting and presentation. Elaine was also reminded of the State Bar commissioners assigned to our section, but we are unaware of who that person is at this point.

Hal O. Carroll provided the **editor's report** in which he stated that he would be sending out eblasts 4 times per year, following each issue because it has resulted in good results among the membership. Kathleen Lopilato mentioned the idea of sponsoring a contest among law students for writing submissions and the group decided that it should evaluate the idea with a possible partnership with the law school writing classes.

There are 4 feature articles in the cue for publication and Hal may receive two more from our annual meeting presenters. Hal will use the articles for the next two publications of the Journal. Hal also suggested a change to the cover to feature the table of contents more prominently and the council was receptive. Hal also requested ideas for Journal topics to solicit from the membership.

The **membership committee** led by Dan Steele discussed the searchable directory of members of the section. Dan will follow up with Dan Brown and Barry Feldman to discuss it. Currently there are 593 members of our section.

Kathleen Lopilato reported about the **annual meeting** on September 19 in Lansing at 9:30 am which will cover no fault reform. She has lined up some great potential speakers in George Sinas, Tom Fields, Steve Gursten and possibly representatives of MHA, MCCA and DIFS. Larry Bennett agreed to act as moderator. It was suggested that the number of topics or speakers be narrowed to fit the time allotted for the program. A motion passed for \$300 and up to 4 e-blasts for the annual program to the membership notifying it of the annual meeting in early August, late August and early September.

The annual meeting will also feature **elections** and there will be at least 2 open council seats. (see attached) Everyone should seek members that may be interested in serving on the council for a two year term. Jim Thome indicated his intention to run for the council again. Nominations must be submitted by August 15, 2013.

Our section will participate in the **Young Lawyers program** as a gold level sponsor at the Greektown hotel. There are currently 73 registrants currently and expect to have 30-40 more late registrants at the event. The council approved expense reimbursement for all its attendees.

There was also a discussion of a webinar for the State Bar related to basics of insurance.

The section **5 year strategic plan was adopted** (copy attached) by motion of Hal, second by Mark Cooper.

Under new business, Elaine brought some of the strategic plans to the attention of the section, including:

- The specific mention of a membership database
- Possibly shoring up support for the president elect's role as the annual meeting organizer
- Setting a budget for each year

Hal reported on the **Business Court Searchable Database** for Insurance and Indemnity practitioners. He obtained a quote from a company to create the system that would run between \$1,934 - \$3,456. The portal would be developed and link to the State Bar website. Members of the section would complete a form providing details of their experience and expertise for use in the database. This would be the first searchable database of its kind in the State Bar and both judges and court administrators have expressed interest in using it. Approval of the contract for creating the database was approved upon the motion of Kathy Lopilato and second by Deb Hebert.

A telephone conference was scheduled for Tuesday, August 20 at 4pm to be coordinated by Elain Pohl.

Following the telephone conference, the next member and council meeting will occur at the Annual Meeting in Lansing on September 19, 2013.