

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

Date: January 11, 2018  
Time: 6:45 p.m.  
Location: Lelli's On The Green  
Minutes: By Jason J. Liss, Secretary

Present:

Larry Bennett  
Pat Crandell  
Ann-Marie Earls  
Rabih Hamawi  
Gus Igwe  
Bob June  
Matt LaBeau  
Jason Liss  
Lauretta Pominville  
Gail Storck  
Renee VanderHagen  
Milea Vislosky  
Nicole Wilinski

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:45 p.m. – Larry Bennett, Chairperson.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – motion to approve minutes passed.
3. TREASURER'S REPORT:
  - 2017 Revenue = \$19,625.00 (up \$1,475.00 from 2016)
  - 2017 Year-End Account balance = \$46,979.11 (up \$2,919.70 from 2016 year-end)
  - Current total membership = 1,029 (up 50 from 2016, 33 of which are paid)
4. CHAIR REPORT – Larry Bennett, Chairperson.
  - Larry reported that he started sending welcome letters to new members and has received positive response.
5. NEW BUSINESS. The following topics were discussed:
  - Larry made a motion to have those who became new members this year by paying \$20.00 for the evening's event, pay the regular membership dues next year. Motion seconded and passed.
  - Larry informed the council that the Women's Lawyer Association asked if our section would be a sponsor for its Centennial Event. Larry suggested a \$250.00 sponsorship to establish a relationship, and a possible joint event in the future. Donna McKenzie asked to put a notice in our journal, but advised that the Women's section would not be able to reciprocate. Motion made to approve \$250.00 sponsorship and notice in the Journal. Motion seconded and passed.

- Larry opened a discussion about populating the section’s Facebook and State Bar Connect pages, and asked for a volunteer to work with Madelyne Lawry to develop content. Larry suggested looking at the Property Law and Business Law sections’ SBM Connect for ideas. No one volunteered.
  - Larry next opened the discussion to the Scholarship. Gail reported that Wayne Law School has a \$7,500.00 minimum to set up the necessary account. Because none of the other schools have a minimum, she suggests that WSU be last in the rotation. Gail reported that U of D did not like the contest idea, and wanted the Dean to identify the recipient based on need. The council members agreed that we would prefer a merit-based award. Both Cooley and MSU were good with the contest and would run it. U of M was nonresponsive. Gail suggested we start with Cooley because it had made it the easiest. The council members agreed. Gail will contact Cooley to get the ball rolling. The council generally agreed that we should do the contest in the fall.
  - Larry opened the discussion to the Supreme Court’s invitation to the section to file briefs amicus curiae in *Song Yu and Sang Chung v Farm Bureau General Ins Co of Michigan*, SC: 155811. After some discussion, the council members generally agreed that because our membership is on both sides of the issue, it would be inappropriate for us to file an amicus brief. Nicole will contact Elaine Pohl and ask her how this was handled or addressed in the past. The issue was tabled.
  - Larry opened the discussion to having the next business meeting in March, and in Grand Rapids in conjunction with the Negligence or Women’s sections. Nicole indicated she would reach out to the Women Lawyers Western Division. Larry will ask Madelyne to reach out to the Negligence section.
  - Larry opened the discussion to having an event up North. No consensus reached.
6. EDITOR’S REPORT – No Editor’s report as Hal was not present.
7. PROGRAM / MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:
- Laretta reported that the Young Lawyers Section was proposing a program at Bay Harbor in April or May, and requested ideas for a presentation and/or volunteers to deliver a presentation. No ideas or volunteers at the present time.
  - Laretta proposed the creation of a 3-ring binder with historical documents that can be passed from year-to-year. The council members generally agreed that it was a good idea but should be maintained electronically instead.
8. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – No Report.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded and approved at 7:32 p.m.