

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

Date: October 30, 2017
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Seikaly, Stewart & Bennett, P.C.
40445 Northwestern Hwy., Ste. 250
Farmington Hills, MI 48334

Present:

<u>In Person:</u>	<u>By Telephone:</u>
Larry Bennett	Renee VanderHagen
Ann-Marie Earls	Gail Stork
Milea Vislosky	Pat Crandall
Gus Igwe	Nicole Wilinski
Hal Carroll	Bob June
Rabih Hamawi	Lauretta Pominville
Matt LaBeau	
Jason Liss	

1. CALL TO ORDER – 4:04 p.m. – Larry Bennett, Chairperson.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Jason Liss moved to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2017 meeting; Rabih Hamawi seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.
3. TREASURER’S REPORT – No report.
4. CHAIR REPORT – Larry Bennett, Chairperson. Larry reported that he attended the New Section Chair Orientation Meeting hosted by the State Bar and shared the highlights of that meeting, mostly focusing on ways to increase membership. The discussion amongst the council that followed is included in the New Business section below.
5. EDITOR’S REPORT – Hal reported that the October issue of the Journal will be coming out late and includes articles on disability, indemnity and the known-loss doctrine. Topic ideas for the upcoming January issue were discussed. Hal advised that he will be sending out small gifts to the regular Journal contributors as a thank you.
6. PROGRAM / MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE – Rabih reported that the planning of a joint program with the Young Lawyers Section could not progress further until a budget was established. Rabih previously reported that the committee was looking at possibly hosting the program at the Inns at St. Johns and that he received a quote of approximately \$65 per person. The council recognized that if our two sections hosted the event at no charge, the cost could become prohibitive depending on the number of attendees. Larry suggested that we could advertise the program as free to the first x-number of people. Jason suggested that our sections could subsidize the ticket price. No consensus was reached, but it was

later suggested that the joint program could become our section's holiday program. The Program Committee will discuss this with Gus, who is responsible for planning the upcoming event to follow our next business meeting.

7. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – No Report.
8. NEW BUSINESS. The following topics were discussed:
 - a. Using SBM resources to set up a Facebook and other social media pages and establish ways to seed it with topics and postings of interest to our current and potential members. The State Bar has someone who can help set it up and “seed” it. Ann-Marie volunteered to work on social media seeding.
 - b. Having meetings and/or events at locations outside the metro area, potentially Grand Rapids and Traverse City. Also, having joint meetings with other sections in an attempt to “cross-pollinate” our members. No decision was made as to this topic. Larry shared data he had as to various sections in which we have common membership.
 - c. Using a professional to help us with outreach and to plan and promote events, specifically Madleyne Lowry, who has worked with other sections and charges \$75 per hour. Larry anticipates that we may only need 10 to 20 hours of her time. A motion was made, seconded and approved to hire Lowry. Larry to follow up with her.
 - d. Resources available through ICLE, including the production of webinars at no cost, which are free to members and ICLE partners. Matt LaBeau volunteered to do a webinar.
 - e. Other ideas included: surveys, mentoring, acknowledging/honoring members, sending an electronic complimentary copy of our Journal to every member of the bar, inviting our members to attend our business meetings, combining social activities with our business meetings.
 - f. The need for articles by December 2018 deadline for insurance-themed March 2019 Bar Journal issue.
 - g. Discussion regarding Scholarship, including what it should be named. Discussion regarding whether a \$5,000 scholarship was sustainable annually. This led to a discussion of possibly raising the membership dues \$5 or \$10, which, given our membership numbers, would cover the lion-share of the cost of the Scholarship. Larry to check with the State Bar for historical data as to the effect raising dues has on membership numbers. Laretta requested a separate meeting devoted to a discussion of raising dues and implementing the Scholarship. Larry would like to implement the Scholarship in the spring. Renee volunteered to work with Adam to implement the Scholarship for Wayne State.

- h. Larry advised that the State Bar solicited comment from our section on proposed new court rule amendments, relating to consent judgments and e-filing. The council did not feel the need to offer comments, since the proposed amendments do not directly relate to insurance matters.
- i. Laretta brought up the fact that the Young Lawyers section moved its annual meeting last year to Crystal Mountain. She suggested doing our business meeting followed by a joint presentation with the Young Lawyers section for our April meeting. Laretta said she would reach out to that section with the idea.

Motion to adjourn made, seconded and approved at 5:23 p.m.