

Meeting was called to order at 12:13 on June 4, 2014

Members present were: Tom Hetchler, John Wojcik, Robert Farnette, Robert Sharkey, Jodi Switalski, also present were Lori Herr and Kathy Lawrence. Members present by phone were: Mike Viterna, Mike Shelton, Ashley Gautreau, Jeremy Henner, and Greg Ulrich.

Motion was made by Jodi Switalski to approve the agenda items, it was seconded by Robert Sharkey. The motion was carried.

Motion was made by Jeremy Henner to approved January 24, 2014 minutes from the annual meeting, it was seconded by Jody Switalski. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Veterans Treatment Court Committee Chair Jodi Switalski reported about their goal is to expand the VTCs in Michigan over the summer. The strategic plan is to make VTC statewide in every county. They would like to unify, connect and have quality treatment courts. She also state that they would like to have more education, a jail diversion plan.

A motion was made by Tom Hetchler and seconded by Robert Farnette to send a letter from the section, to Dingel facility for justice outreach staffing. The motion was carried.

They also discussed having Mike McDaniel or Terry Angle setup a presentation on topics like PTSD or Veteran's Treatment Court for the annual meeting.

Tom Hetchler talked about Cooley's plan for (VLAP) Veterans Legal Assistance Program.

Ashley Gautreau report as Veteran's benefits Committee Chair stated they were looking to support the other committees and help find volunteers for the VLAP program.

Tom Hetchler talked about using List-serv thru Google for communications to the section members. Email blast were also discussed. They were not as in favor of that due to the cost. Tom was going to talk to Terry Angle and get his input on communications to the section.

The members then briefly talked about ways of getting the name out there. Doing things like benefits presentation, getting the name on the agenda for the family law conference in October.

Mike Viterna gave the Treasurer's report.

The section beginning balance in January was \$2850. We added \$75.00 in member's dues bringing the total to \$2925.00. The expenses from the January meeting were \$481.17. Leaving a balance of \$2443.83.

John Wojcik suggested that we may want to find out if we are required to do quarterly reports.

Michigan National Guard talked with MSU about the small business tax clinic and having the meetings at JFHQ. They are marketing it for November 13th. Wojcik was sending out an email blast after meeting on Thursday with MSU.

U of M Veterans Law Clinic received a grant for a clinic to help full time faculty and students to go into court for drunk driving issues.

It was brought up that Detroit College of Mercy has not replied back to request about helping with Veteran issues. Ashley is going to reach out to Peggy Costello as she works there.

Discussion was brought up by John Wojcik regarding sexual assaults and how they are handled and whether they would be farmed out to be prosecuted. It was also talked about appointment of more special victims advocate to represent sexual assault victims. Three so far in Michigan. There are two types of sexual reports, restrictive and unrestrictive.

Tom Hetchler's report on the VLAP:

The executive committee will work with Michigan Veteran's agency to find cases that lawyers don't want to do. Such as Veterans that slip through the cracks and have no one to help them, discharge review cases, and veteran's warrant program. We have students ready to help, but will need attorneys to look over their shoulder's. Expect a email requesting your help with this program.

The section currently has 198 members. 166 Active members. 1 inactive member, 1 legal assistant, and 30 students.

John Wojcik was going to ask Terry Angle to do the amendments to the by-laws and get them sent in. It should go from saying "Military" to Military / Veterans.

The next annual meeting is September 19, 2014.

Council members would meet from 9:00 am to 10:30 am then the section would meet from 10:45 to noon.

Definitely want to announce ourselves at the meeting. Maybe have General Gregory J. Vadnais as a speaker.

Motion regarding letter from the DOD, made by Mike Shelton, we do not have enough information to take a position on DOD letter to change UCMJ. It was seconded by Jodi Switalski. There was one nay by Robert Farnette. The motion was carried.

Motion was made by Jodi Switalski regarding bills 5531 and 5529, the section supports the Bills, but we would like to have the legislature take and relook at section that would kick out veterans from a treatment court for additional felony. It was seconded by Robert Sharkey. The motion was carried.

Greg Ulrich as that the section take at the report that they just received and look at section 2 of the report regarding advocacy and give feedback on how the language may affect the Military / Veterans section by July 25th. He has to have feedback to court by August 4th.

Jodi Switalski asked if the section had a comment on the VA issue, the section said not at this time. Lack of information was the reason. Also, if section could get some articles printed in the November State Bar Journal. John Wojcik said they were working on that, he had a JAG officer who just wrote an article and he was going to ask him if they could use it for the bar journal.

Jodi Switalski 1st graduation for Veteran's Treatment court is July 16th. She would like to invite everyone to attend.

Motion was made to adjourn by Robert Farnette, it was seconded by Tom Hetchler. The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm.