

**GENERAL PRACTICE SOLO & SMALL FIRM
MAY 15, 2013 MEETING
MEETING MINUTES**

In attendance: Elizabeth Silverman, Marty Fried, Bill Roy, Lori Williams, John Holmquist, Tanisha Davis, Bill Cataldo, Ed Haroutian, Mike Gunderson

Excused Absence: Maury Klein

Treasurer's Report – Mike Gunderson: Balance: \$24,994.18

Chair Discussion

- Elizabeth outlined that for the last two (2) meetings, there was not a quorum; Elizabeth suggested expanding council to 12 people, but that would require 7 people to make a quorum. Currently, only five (5) council members are needed to quorum and we currently have nine (9) people on the Council.
- Bill Cataldo and Bill Roy suggested bringing this issue up at the Annual Meeting because we need at least 120 days prior to annual meeting to amend/modify the by-laws, which is essentially what we would be doing to expand the council.
- Discussion about the rule of voting by email. Noted that we must be present to make financial decisions and can not vote on financial issues via email.
- Discussion about Stuart Sandweiss remaining on the Council. We agreed to table this discussion until next month to determine whether he will attend or step down from the Council.

- **Medical Marijuana Seminar** – discussion about individuals who've asked whether it can be taped or materials available on our website? However, if it is taped, there is the fear that speakers may not be as candid with the discussion than if it was not taped. Seminar went extremely well.
- **Next Seminar is June 11, 2013.**
- Bill Cataldo is in line to be Chair for next year. However, Bill may not be interested in position. Tanisha Davis is interested in the Chair position for next year.
- MOTION on the floor for Tanisha Davis to accompany Elizabeth to the State Bar Leadership Conference in Mackinac on June 13 – a second person is only an additional \$80.00 and both Tanisha and Elizabeth would share lodging.
 - o **Motion was APPROVED by Council.**

- Discussion about seminar on Driver License Restoration – Mark Chadwick was going to do this seminar but has been diagnosed with mesothelioma.
- Discussion about ways to improve website as it is out of date. We will take a look at the website, and come up with ideas.

New Business

- Ed Haroutin brought up the issues of a change in the law in the probate arena. Patient Advocate Designation issues and Durable Power of Attorneys not being honored by hospitals or banks, as banks have their own rules. The law has changed in October 2012
- Elizabeth talked about the GP Council touching base with Probate Council regarding issues that we can bring to the State Bar and possibly with Representative Assembly.
- Elizabeth will send out email to members to get feedback
- John Holmquist brought up the policy commission of the board of commission and proposed ct. rule changes
- Possibility of starting a committee to deal with proposed court rules and legislation changes
- Further discussion about how to further involve member in our council meetings. Question of whether we should consider surveying members?
- Should agenda's be sent out to all members before meetings?

Committee Ideas for Annual Meeting

- Lori suggested coming up with a good venue for cocktail reception
- Membership Committee – Lori and John H. agreed to sign up; Public Relations issues can also be a part of membership committee
- Annual Meeting – Bill Roy agreed to sign up for this

Newsletter

- Newsletter deadline is 3 weeks from date of meeting. Due 2nd week of June
- Cataldo suggested that speakers at our seminars should submit an article in advance of speaking at our seminars

Law Day

- Suggested an Ask the Lawyer Day (Marty Fried)
- Would need volunteer lawyers
- Marty suggested the Community House in Birmingham
- Cost would be \$1500 – to include 2 rental rooms, ½ page ad (graphic designer), 17,000 person email solicitation, press release, and social media marketing

- Annual Meeting September 19-20, 2013
- Issue will be time and getting word out to people
- Tanisha volunteered to help
- Motion to allocate \$1500 for law day – APPROVED

- Suggested an attorney/judge crossfire; include about 3 lawyers and start with 1 question

Membership

- Brought up some issues affecting membership including a number of questions such as:
 - o What is the benefit that can bring more clients?
 - o What is the benefit of the section?
 - o What is the benefit to come to the meetings?
- We should focus on the referral process and show areas of practice in meeting minutes

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:05 PM

Next meeting June 20, 2013