

**COUNCIL OF TAXATION SECTION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

September 22, 2011

A regular meeting of the Council of the State Bar of Michigan Taxation Section was held on September 22, 2011 at 3:00 PM at St. John’s Golf & Conference Center, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth, MI. Gina M. Torielli, Chairperson of the Taxation Section, presided.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Warren Widmayer	Wayne Roberts	Lynn Gandhi
Marla Carew	Ronald T. Charlebois	Marjorie B. Gell
Daniel Houlf	Gary Glenn	Michael Domanski
George V. Cassar	Gina M. Torielli	

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Paul V. McCord	Michael Antovski	Gary Remer
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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS PRESENT

Alex Domenicucci	Tom Shaevsky	Carolee Cameron
Andy Lane		

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS ABSENT

Peter Kulick	Chris Ballard	
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OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Skinner	Phil Admiraal	Jeff Kirkey
Deb Michaelian	Fred Hoops	Erin Sexton
George Gregory	Sal Curcuro	Deborah Baughmann
Jackie J. Cook	Nicole Appleberry	

Council Chairperson, Gina M. Torielli, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 PM.

Treasurer's Report

Wayne Roberts provided his report as Treasurer for the eleven months ended August 31, 2011. The section was over budget as to dues, and the revenue amounts for the Annual Conference do not take into account expenses not yet cleared. The Treasurer noted that there is cash on hand remaining, and the Committees are urged to consider utilizing their budgets.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by George Cassar, seconded by Alex Domenicucci and unanimously approved.

Minutes

The Minutes of the June 16, 2011 meeting of the Council were previously distributed. Upon the motion by Marla Carew, seconded by Ron Charlebois, the Minutes were unanimously approved and adopted.

Council Activities

1. Continuing Professional Education - After Hours Tax Law Series – Jeff Kirkey

Jeff circulated a written report of the After Hours Tax Law Series and noted the use of in-studio webcasts for the upcoming program season.

2. Tax Court Luncheon – Gary Glenn.

Judge David Laro did not want to commit to a luncheon, as his travel plans were unsure. Discussion was held on whether a luncheon could be held without a Judge, with perhaps a tour of the Chief Counsel's Office or having the Tax Court Clerk present. A box lunch meeting may also be a good replacement. Further consideration will be given to these ideas.

3. Directory – George Cassar

George reported that the on-line directory has been updated with the current IRS information.

4. Michigan Tax Lawyer – Marla Carew

Marla was waiting on a few committee reports to finish the Fall issue.

5. Internet – Daniel Houlf

Dan reported that the Section’s Facebook page has been completed, and we will begin posting to the site. There was general discussion regarding use of the page, and concerns regarding control and privacy were addressed.

6. Membership Outreach Coordinator – Dan Houlf

Dan reported that he is actively working to obtain scholarships for students for the MACPA/SBM Michigan Tax Conference, to be held in November. The Committee will repeat its well received “Meet and Greet” at the University of Detroit in November.

7. Annual Chairpersons’ Dinner – Gary Glenn

The Annual Chairperson’s Dinner will take place following the annual meeting on September 22, 2011 at St. Johns at 5:00. Based on feedback from prior meetings, there will not be a speaker, but a chance for current and past members to socialize.

8. Grant Program – Michael Domanski

Mike reported that the grants are under review, and that we had received a thank you note from the State Bar for our work on awarding grants for pro bono legal services.

9. Public Policy Liaison – Marjorie B. Gell

Marje reported on the Task Force efforts regarding certain CIT issues; particularly those regarding withholding and apportionment. It was agreed that the Committee would draft a letter to be provided to the Administration regarding these issues, to be circulated to the Council for review and approval consistent with the Council procedure for taking positions on matters of public policy.

10. 2011 Tax Conference –Gary Remer

No report was necessary, Gary Remer was absent.

11. Michigan Bar Journal Liaison – Paul McCord

Paul McCord was absent, no report was provided.

Probate and Estate Planning Section Liaison Report – Fred Hoops

Fred Hoops reported that he attended the Annual Meeting of the probate section on September 17, 2011. George Gregory will be the new chair of that Council.

State Bar of Michigan Liaison Report – David Perkins

David Perkins did not attend, no report was provided.

IRS Area Counsel Liaison Report – Eric Skinner

Eric Skinner was absent, no report was provided.

Young Lawyer’s Section Liaison Report – Phil Admiraal

Phil Admiraal was absent, no report was provided.

Program Facilitator Report – Deb Michaelian

Nothing to report

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Business Entities – Alex Domenicucci

Alex thanked the Council for his opportunity to chair this committee, and was looking forward to working on transition issues with the new Chair.

Employee Benefits – Thomas Shaevisky

Tom Shaevisky introduced Deborah Baughman, who will be the new Committee Chair.

Estates and Trusts – Chris Ballard

Chris was absent and did not provide a report.

Practice and Procedure – Peter Kulick

Peter indicated in his written report that his committee is looking into a joint meeting for the upcoming year with the Estate and Trusts Committee.

International Law – Michael Domanski and Andy Lane

Andy will be continuing his role as Chair as Mike rolls off the committee. They are considering a luncheon next year with a panel discussion regarding moving to a territorial system of taxation.

State and Local –Carolee Cameron

Carolee reported that the social meeting with Treasury officials and representatives in August was very well received and well-attended, with several judges and the Lt. Governor present.

There have been some problems with the listserve and these are being looked into, as the SALT blasts did not reach all the participants on this listserve.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Gina Torielli referred to the draft “Report on Pro Bono Opportunities for Michigan’s Tax Lawyers,” circulated before the meeting. She stated that it was the result of a one-year study conducted by the Taxation Section’s ad hoc Committee on Public Service, and was primarily the work of Paul McCord, now a Michigan Tax Tribunal Judge. She stated that this was the first step in what she hoped would be an ongoing work in process to identify pro bono opportunities for Taxation Section members.

Next was a presentation by Eric Nemeth regarding the Alvin Storres Tax Clinic at the MSU College of Law. Eric asked the Section to consider a donation to the current campaign underway to improve the Clinic, in honor of the memory of Prof. Storres. He reviewed the impact that Prof. Storres had on the local tax community, and his efforts to provide pro bono services.

A discussion was held regarding the services provided by the clinic and the areas of greatest need. Action was deferred for future consideration.

There being no further business, upon motion duly made by Marla Carew, seconded by Warren Widmayer, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn A. Gandhi
Secretary