

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
November 18, 2010 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by the Chair Richard Seidel. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes from the October meeting. The Minutes were approved unanimously. Assistant Treasurer Wes Payne presented the Treasurer's report for the period ending October 31, 2010.

He reported that expenses are somewhat over budget due in part to bank fees. Income from LRIS is also up. Executive Director Ken Shear told the Board that the Association could show a slight deficit at the end of the year as no more dues income is anticipated to come in, expenses are fixed, and a lot will depend on whether there is a bump in revenue. Chancellor-Elect Rudy Garcia asked what could change between now and the end of the year. CFO Susan Knight stated that it could depend on the return on investment income.

The Chair made announcements. First, he congratulated Secretary Kathleen Wilkinson for her becoming uncontested in her candidacy for the position of Vice Chancellor. He reported that there still remains a contest at the Board and Assistant Secretary levels.

Chancellor Scott Cooper made his remarks. Scott Cooper offered congratulations to Kathleen Wilkinson and other uncontested candidates in the upcoming elections. There was an excellent Election Forum on November 18, 2010 for the position of the Assistant Secretary and candidates for the Board.

The Chancellor stated that this has been another busy month for the Association. He presented remarks at the PBA Diversity Summit and attended the Asian American Bar dinner in October 2010. He thanked those who volunteered to be on the board of Senior Law Center and has submitted their names for consideration. He reported about a recent Bar Academy meeting with the Chair of the Zoo for a future bar event.

Chancellor Cooper reported that the Hamilton Benefit, co-chaired by Rudy Garcia and Tom Brophy, was very successful from a fundraising standpoint. Scott Cooper attended the Real Property Section lunch honoring Harris Ominsky.

Marvin Comisky, former Chancellor of the Association and former President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, passed away earlier in November. Chancellor Cooper stated that he and Larry Beaser thank the Board for their thoughts about Marvin Comisky. He also thanked Bill Fedullo, co-chair of the Historical Society, for the video made of Marvin Comisky and expressed that the family wanted a copy of the video.

A Chancellor's Forum was held on November 15 with Richard Negrin, who gave an insightful presentation of his role with the City and interactions with the Mayor. Chancellor Cooper wrote a letter to the Editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer on the need for an independent Judiciary. He noted this was timely in light of the recent election in Iowa, in which three Iowa Supreme Court justices lost their seats as a result of public opposition to their ruling on same sex marriage.

The 2011 World Conference of Bar Leaders will take place in Montreal and Scott Cooper is on the planning committee. The goal is to try to have an opportunity for a conference in Philadelphia.

Chancellor Cooper reported that he and Charlie Klitsch will go to the White House on November 19, 2010, at the invitation of Vice President Biden and Department of Justice Access to Justice Initiative Chair Laurence Tribe. He stated that the invitation was issued because of Charlie Klitsch's work on a project involving the American Bar Association and the Department of Labor. Charlie Klitsch was recognized to speak about the project. Mr. Klitsch stated that the Department of Labor realized it was doing a poor job getting clients with wage and hour and FMLA claims to attorneys qualified to represent them. The Department of Labor approached the ABA about the problem. The ABA formed a committee that put together a national program to link potential clients with lawyers who meet specific experience requirements, using a nationwide toll free number and a network of lawyer referral programs that meet certain qualifications. The Department of Justice chose this as one of three new access to justice programs to spotlight at the White House event. Vice President Biden, Attorney General Holder, Labor Secretary Solis, Laurence Tribe and other dignitaries are expected to attend.

Chancellor Cooper reported he just learned that Judge Annette Rizzo will also be present as a panel member to discuss another program being highlighted - a new HUD initiative dealing with mortgage foreclosures.

Chancellor Cooper reported that at the December Board meeting there will be work relating to the Historical Society, its handling of fundraising and artifacts. The plan is to make this a separate 501(c)(3) legal entity.

Bruce Franzel, co-chair Charter and Bylaws Committee, was recognized to present a Resolution by the Charter and Bylaws Committee, for proposed adoption and addition of new Section 217 to the Association Bylaws. Bruce Franzel explained that this is a proposal for the creation of a Long-Range Advisory Council, which is an initiative of Chancellor-Elect Rudy Garcia. Chancellor-Elect Garcia was recognized and explained how each Chancellor wants to do something different in their year, which is good, but the Association also needs a mechanism for addressing longer term issues. The intent of the Council would be to serve as an advisory body that would make recommendations to the Chancellor or the Board. Issues could include, for example, what to do if a lease expires, issues involving a conference of World City Bar Leaders and making a pitch for an ABA meeting in Philadelphia.

The Council would have continuity of membership beyond one year and would be structured to include the Vice Chancellor, Chancellor-Elect, and Chancellor, Chair of YLD and three appointed members by each of the chancellors each year. The appointments would be made with due regard for commitment to diversity, and would include members who have a long history with the Association and can help with a long range plan. A motion to adopt the Resolution supporting such a Bylaw made and seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The Bylaw amendment has to be advertised to the membership three times with the last publication made not less than 20 days before the next meeting of the members, which will be March 11, 2011. The first group to be appointed to the Council will be recommended to be approved by the Board.

Joe Sullivan, co-chair of the Civil Gideon Task Force, was recognized to present on the status of the work of the Task Force in 2010 and to present a Resolution Authorizing The Continued Work of the Chancellor’s Task Force on Civil Gideon. The co-chair is Cathy Carr. He explained that the concept behind Civil Gideon derives from the criminal law context: the right to counsel at government expense in criminal matters to those who are indigent. The ABA passed a resolution with a Model Civil Gideon Act, and a statement of basic principles was also adopted. The Philadelphia Bar is focusing on access to housing, tenants facing eviction and homeowners facing foreclosures. There are many homeowners in Philadelphia who cannot afford counsel. The Task Force is made of a broad cross-section, and includes members of the judiciary. There have been regular meetings of working groups, which include housing, family law/custody, and communications/education. On July 7, 2010, there was a Chancellor’s Forum and nationally recognized Russell Engler was the Forum speaker. Chief Justice Castille was present and there was wide participation. Members of the Task Force are doing a lot of speaking, both at Inns of Court, and at the upcoming Public Interest Day in December, 2010. They are requesting the Board approve ongoing work by the Task Force. Upon Motion made and seconded, the Resolution Authorizing the Continued Work of the Chancellor’s Task Force on Civil Gideon passed unanimously.

The Chair recognized Lou Rulli, (pro bono liaison to the Board), Sara Woods (Executive Director of VIP) and Joe Sullivan, with assistance by Meryl Zebe (staff member of the Association), to provide an informational report on non-lawyer expert volunteers for pro bono work in Philadelphia. Lou Rulli stated that access to justice is a responsibility of the whole community, including non-lawyer experts to bring all of the services together. Many times a non-lawyer volunteer is needed to help with a pro bono case. They want to develop a repository of non-lawyer volunteer names, housed within the VIP website. Therefore “The Pro Bono Non-Lawyer Partnership Network” was developed. A handout was distributed at the meeting explaining the network.

Sara Woods then explained how a form was developed by VIP for the name of the volunteer and other information needed to match the person with the type of work needed. It will be web-based. A document was handed out at the meeting explaining how the pro bono non-lawyer partnership would work. The Chair and Chancellor Cooper also thanked the presenters for their work.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned 5:04 p.m.

Respectfully,

Kathleen D. Wilkinson
Secretary



Board of Governors
Attendance
November 18, 2010

Present:

Scott Cooper
Kathleen Wilkinson
Richard Seidel
Larry Beaser
Michael Schaffer
Kimberly Ruch-Alegant
Marc Tepper
Tom Wilkinson
Amy Ginensky

Rudolph Garcia
Joseph Prim
Regina Foley
Danielle Banks
Sean Sullivan
Scott Sigman
Lee Applebaum
Hon. A. Michael Snyder

John Savoth
Wesley Payne
Jacqueline Segal
Jeffrey Campolongo
Brandi Brice
Stacy Tees
Cheryl Gaston
Ken Shear

Absent:

Sophia Lee
Maria Feeley
Richard Haris
Gaetan Alfano
Peter Berson
Daniel Blickman
Scott Reid

Michael Berkowitz
Jeffrey Gross
Pedro Ramos
Albertine DuFrayne
Shanese Johnson
A. Michael Pratt

Karen Detamore
Mehrin Masud-Elias
Sayde Ladov
Carolyn Chopko
Angus Love
Louis Rulli