



MINUTES
HIPLA BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2008

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Those in attendance –

Paul Morico
Marcella Watkins
Anthony Matheny
Jennifer Adamson
Michael Locklar
Randy Furlong
Pam McCollough
Georgianna Witt
Jeffrey Johnson
Natalie Wright
Patty Meier
Steven Spears
Howard Speight

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Natalie Wright moved for approval of the Minutes. Pam McCollough seconded. All were in favor.

2. Treasurer's Report

Jennifer Adamson reported that a 2007 final accounting will be provided to the Board, but is not yet sure when it will be available. Jennifer also reported that HIPLA has approximately \$233,700.00 on hand; however, HIPLA still owes UH approximately \$40,000 for the 2007 Fall Institute and all of the reimbursements for the 2007 Institute have not been paid. After payment of these amounts, HIPLA will have approximately \$193,700.00.

3. Committee Reports

a. Website Overhaul – Anthony Matheny

Anthony reported that the website has been up and running and that the Committee Chairs have been notified to review their respective web pages for any modifications. Because the website overhaul is completed, Michael

Locklar moved to close the ad hoc committee on the website redesign. Marcella Watkins seconded. All were in favor.

b. Law School Scholarship Fund – Steven Spears

Steven reported that everything is in place at all three area law schools and that we should be receiving recommendations from UH and South Texas within the next few months. The scholarship Committee should also be receiving applications from students at TSU within the next few months so that the Committee can make recommendations to the Board.

Steven also reported that the plaque for the Fellowship award has been ordered and that Steven will present the plaque at the Federal Judge's Dinner. Steven is trying to confirm all of the names of the past winners so that their names can be listed on the HIPLA website. Steven hopes to have all past winners identified in the coming weeks.

The Board also discussed the timing of the payment of the scholarships to the students. Steven is going to check with the schools to determine whether the students will receive the scholarship awards at the end of the spring semester or at the beginning of the fall semester. Depending upon when the payments are dispersed by the schools, the Board may want to modify the requirements for applying for a scholarship by only allowing 2Ls to apply.

c. Judges Dinner – Marcella Watkins

Marcella reported that the Judges Dinner was on schedule and that invitations will be going out within the next few days. Marcella also reported that on-line registration is going well in response to the e-mail invitation that went out recently.

Addendum – On January 18, 2008, Marcella Watkins sent an e-mail to the Board requesting approval of a gift in the amount of \$2,500 to the Houston Museum of Natural Science in lieu of an honorarium to Joel Bartsch, this year's speaker at the Federal Judge's Dinner. By e-mail, Paul Morico moved for payment of the \$2,500 honorarium. Jennifer Adamson seconded. All were in favor.

d. Pro Bono – Patty Meier, Michael Locklar

Michael reported that the ad hoc committee met and discussed several ideas for community participation. Patty Meier proposed that HIPLA assist Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts obtain certain badges. These badges are awarded based upon the Scouts interviewing attorneys on various subject matters. Patty suggested that IP law would be appropriate because of the IP issues that

arise with respect to on-line music downloads, trademarks, and desktop publishing. Along the same type of community service, Patty proposed attorneys working with members of Junior Achievement to provide assistance with IP issues that might arise with those members' development and marketing of their products.

The Board was receptive to these ideas in light of the long term commitment IP attorneys would have to make to provide traditional IP services, e.g., file for trademark application, which could cause liability issues. Michael volunteered to contact the Scouts and Junior Achievement to see how HIPLA members could help and he will report his findings at the next Board meeting.

The ad hoc committee also discussed the possibility of a science fair at middle schools, however, the committee did not want to compete with the high school science fair for volunteers. Therefore, a middle school science fair is the ad hoc committee's second choice for a community service project.

e. Amicus Briefs – Michael Locklar for Sharon Israel

Michael reported that the committee is still working on the brief for the *Egyptian Goddess* case and that once the brief is finished, it will be circulated to the Board -- probably by the end of the month because it is due in the first part of February.

Michael advised the Board that the committee was approached by one of the parties in the on-going *Festo* case regarding HIPLA filing an amicus brief in that case. He said that the Committee would investigate and he will report back to the Board after he learns more about the request.

Addendum – the Amicus Committee sent a draft of the brief in the *Egyptian Goddess* case to the Board on February 1, 2008. By e-mail, Marcella Watkins moved that the brief be approved. Georgianna Witt seconded. All were in favor.

f. Fall Institute – Anthony Matheny/Marcella Watkins

Marcella informed the Board that Anthony Matheny will be the HIPLA Chair for the 2008 Fall Institute. Anthony reported that the planning committee is set to meet on February 2, 2008 and a number of people have already provided suggested topics for discussion.

4. Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held February 19, 2008, at 5:00 pm.

5. New Business

a. Nominating Committee – Marcella Watkins

Marcella reported that the Nominating Committee would be meeting at the end of this month to put together a slate of officers and directors for the upcoming annual meeting. Marcella noted that Anthony Matheny is the 2008 Chair for the Fall Institute and that other Chairs would be appointed in the coming months.

b. Long Range Planning Committee – Paul Morico for Steve Koch

Paul reported that Steve had informed him that final input from members of the Long Range Planning Committee is being gathered and consolidated and that Steve intends to present to the Board recommendations at the February, 2008 meeting.

c. Luncheons – Paul Morico for Shawn Foster

Paul informed the Board that Shawn is having tremendous success with obtaining speakers for the luncheons and he inquired as to whether HIPLA would like to have a luncheon in July. Normally, no luncheon is held in July. The Board discussed and agreed that a luncheon in July would be a good idea and Anthony Matheny was tasked with contacting Shawn to let him know to schedule a luncheon in July.

Shawn also inquired about whether luncheons should be scheduled in September and October. Because the dates of those luncheons might have an effect on the Fall Institute, the Board instructed Anthony Matheny to coordinate with Shawn as to whether luncheons would be held in those months.

6. Old Business

None

7. Adjournment

On motion by Marcella Watkins, seconded by Randy Furlong, the Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.