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HIPLA Board Meeting Minutes August 11, 2009

In Attendance:

Stephen Koch
Al Riddle
Marcella Watkins
Anthony Matheny
Georgiana Witt Braden
Joe Beauchamp
Ted Ro
Jeremy Welch
Carey Jordan
Steven Spears
Mike Locklar

1. Stephen Koch called the meeting to order. Anthony moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from the June 23, 2009 meeting. Joe seconded the move. All approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

a. Financial Report

Unfortunately, Howard was unable to attend the meeting but he sent an email with the financial report to Stephen. The current account balance for HIPLA as of June 30, 2009 is \$139,247.64. There were \$375.00 of deposits in transit and \$32.09 in outstanding checks leaving a balance of \$139,590.55.

b. Golf Tournament

Howard also reviewed the golf tournament profit/loss that Conklin Hruzcek sent to HIPLA. It is slight off from Luke Culpepper's calculation showing that HIPLA came in \$126.46 over budget. Many of the deposits were made by internet and there was a refund of \$79.00 after all calculations. However, we will assume that the accountant's numbers are correct and that the final loss on the golf tournament was \$205.49. The goal was to come out even, so we did a good job

considering the size of the budget. Big kudos to Luke Culpepper for his efforts with the tournament.

3. Old Business

a. CAFC Visit Update

Both Stephen and Al made a site visit last week to view the location. Al Riddle confirmed and enlarged the size of the room for the Tuesday night dinner at the Houstonian. He will send out Save the Date Notices to all SDTX judges. He has not sent out notices to the EDTX judges but will send the ESTX judges formal invitations. We will send out early invitation to active HIPLA members. Formal invitations will go out early September and Al is handling that issue. We will do both postal and email invitations as this is a significant event. The Wednesday CLE will be held in the same room as the Tuesday night dinner, but the court prefers to stay at the Houstonian for all events. The University of Houston will handle all Wednesday afternoon activities, while Monday evening the Federal Bar Association will host an event for the judges. Once the contract is finalized we can determine the cost of the tickets and the cost for people wanting to purchase whole tables. We will need to look at the menus and determine what the break even point will be. Al has identified gifts for the judges.

b. Amicus Committee Activities

HIPLA submitted a brief in the *In re Bilski* case and we will post the brief on the website. Howard led the efforts on the brief. Getting the brief printed, filed, and served was approximately \$1,000.00. According to Stephen Koch, we have money in the budget to file two briefs per year. Steven Spears relayed to the Board that the majority of the Amicus Committee has a negative view of filing a brief in the Boston Scientific case and did not recommend for HIPLA to prepare and file a brief in that case.

c. Fall Institute

Mike Locklar stated that brochures are out but we do not have a final decision on the Friday Keynote Lunch speaker. We will have a HIPLA Board meeting at Moody Gardens at 5pm on October 1.

d. Luncheon Schedule

The speaker for the September lunch cancelled, so we may get Jeff Johnson to talk about the PatStates website. We will also have a short presentation to honor the Inventors of the Years. Carrie Jordan volunteered to do an Ethics CLE on blogging if Mr. Johnson is unavailable.

4. New Business

a. Membership Committee and Renewals

As of two weeks ago, we had 430 members and we budgeted for 600. So our budget may fall short. The committee is working to contact old members and encourage them to renew their membership.

b. USPTO/EPO Liaison Committee Meeting

We had been notified by the USPTO that the meeting will be in DC this October. The Board discussed whether to send Mr. Speight again. He previously gave a presentation at one of the luncheons and it was informative. Both Mr. Speight and Mr. Osha have each attended two meetings, so there was discussion about whether to have them attend additional meetings or to keep them for continuity. Al suggested that we give them 4 year terms and then rotate the honor to other volunteers. HIPLA also gives a stipend of \$1,000 for the DC trip and \$1,250 for the foreign trips. Al moved to send Howard back to DC, Carried seconded the motion, and all approved. Anthony then moved to change the term to 4 years for Howard and Jonathon Osha. Carried seconded the motion, and all approved. The amount of the stipend stayed the same.

c. Law School Relations Committee

The Board discussed whether we want the Law School Liason (Rob) to find a non-law school location to host a law school reception for students. We have \$1,000 budgeted for such an event.

Al moved to close the meeting, Anthony seconded the motion, and all approved.

