

HIPLA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Meeting of October 6, 2005

Held in Board Room of Moody Gardens Hotel, 5:15 P.M.

Attendees, in person, or by telecon included:

Gordon Arnold	Stephen Koch
Stephen Spears	Al Kimball
Charles Walker	Jennifer Adamson
Patty Meier	Collin Rose
Marcella Watkins	Anthony Matheny

Treasurer's Report (C. Walker):

At the request of Gordon Arnold, Charles Walker provided a detailed review of the financial health of HIPLA.

At end of fiscal year 2005 (year ending 3/31/2005), the HIPLA bank account had \$155,588. HIPLA had a net loss during the year of \$36,716. The loss resulted from several factors: (1) late payment of 2003 Fall Institute funds to U. of Houston, (2) resolution and payment to Conklin Hruzek of amounts due for past services (covering five years), and (3) payment to U. of H. the initial payment for the U. of H. HIPLA Intellectual Property Chair. On an accrual basis (net cash operations), the organization showed approximately a \$15K profit for the year, the profit of which largely results from the Fall Institute.

Fiscal year 2006 is expected to show a loss once again, of approximately \$45K, principally due to the March 2005 bylaws change which defers the next membership renewal cycle until the second quarter of 2006. A further payment to U. of H. for the HIPLA Chair has also been made. Fall Institute income on a per attendee basis is up based on a prior decision of the U. of H. and the Board, but attendance was expected to be slightly down from the prior year.

Judge's Dinner Planning Report (A. Kimball):

A contact with the president of the Federal Bar association is being made regarding joint sponsorship of the dinner, the purpose being to expand the potential attendee base. The dinner will continue to be tied to the HIPLA Student Fellowship program.

Other Business (S. Koch):

The following additional matters were discussed, all of which derived from email questions from members, Board Members, or third parties.

Outreach Activities:

A discussion was held regarding whether HIPLA should change its long standing policy of not distributing its membership list other than by hard copy sale of mailing labels. The discussion also extended to whether HIPLA should (1) consider co-sponsorship of programs in exchange for use of its mailing list, and (2) whether requests, such as recently received from the Licensing Executives Society, to make announcements of other organization's activities by email or on the website should be accepted. The Board decided to delegate to Paul Morico, the head of the membership committee, the responsibility for discussing these subjects and developing a recommendation for Board consideration.

The above delegation was later expanded to include consideration of how to handle announcement requests related to recently deceased present or former members, and charity events related thereto.

U. of H. Katz-Kiley Announcement Request

U. of H. has asked that the Katz-Kiley announcement be sent to HIPLA members by email after the written invitation is mailed, as a reminder. The Board approved this request.

Website Matters

A number of website matters/policies were discussed. Updates to routine website pages, are done at the beginning of the year for the new set of officers, and are not generally on a routine basis during each such year. No disagreement to this policy was noted.

The Board re-affirmed the website database update practice that member email addresses are updated by the Secretary on a time-available basis when information has been received of a changed email address, but no other information is updated by the Secretary. A reminder of the policy will be sent by email to the existing email address list, and announcements considered for future luncheons, but there will be no general, or regularly-scheduled attempt by the Secretary to maintain updated membership records on the database.

The Secretary noted that a member had suggested a HIPLA Blog be setup. He was asked to obtain further information for discussion at the next meeting.

Student Luncheon Attendance

The Board re-affirmed the policy of subsidize students who attend HIPLA luncheons by charging 50% of full price, but only if they ask to attend under their own name. HIPLA sponsored attendees not charged. Law firm sponsored attendees charged at member rate.

A previous email approval of an outreach to evacuated Loyola IP students who are here in Houston by allowing three students to be invited to lunches as if they were from UH, TSU, or South Texas was reaffirmed.

Fall Institute Luncheon Attendees

The question of whether to charge, and if so what price to charge, attendees representing sponsors of HIPLA institute at future institute luncheons was discussed. This year sponsors were told the free conference registration(s) that they receive as a sponsor benefit does not include meals. It had separately been suggested that certain long-time sponsors, such as Brian Benoit, not a member of HIPLA, and representing his employer, Standard and Poors, who is sponsoring a dinner at the Institute, should not be charged. The question was tabled and deferred for reconsideration by the coordinator of the 2006 Institute.

HIPLA List of Patent Mediators

The Board re-affirmed that HIPLA will not maintain a list of patent mediators appropriate to be designated for a case pending in Houston federal court.

How to Handle September Luncheon Refunds

A discussion was held as to how to refund payments by those who signed up by credit card for the storm-cancelled September luncheon. It was decided to provide a credit at the next luncheon to all people who signed up by credit card, without charging an upgrade/downgrade fee/refund if the next luncheon is more/or less expensive than the September luncheon.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for November 9, 2005 at the Rainbow Lodge, at 11:30 A.M.