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HIPLA Board Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2010

In Attendance:

Al Riddle*
Anthony Matheny *
Joe Beauchamp
Howard Speight
Stephen Koch*
Shawn Foster
Ted Ro
Elizabeth King
Carey Jordan
Jennifer Carnahan
Charles Walker*
Matt Reeves*
Brian Adams
*in person, the rest by phone

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Al Riddle called the meeting to order. Stephen Koch moved, with Ted Ro seconding, to approve the meeting minutes from the August 2010 meeting, with a revision to show that the golf tournament occurred at the Quail Valley golf course. All approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Joe Beauchamp reported that as of the end of August 2010, the HIPLA account had a balance of approximately \$181,000. This is about \$50,000 more than last year, which is likely due to the revenue from last year's Judge's Dinner. Joe observed that we are half way through the year and that so far we have had \$91,000 in income, as compared to \$84,000 last year, and \$62,000 in expenses, as compared to \$42,000 in expenses at this time last year. The higher expenses are due in part to the large payment to Conklin Hrucek for accounting expenses and to a luncheon phasing phenomenon.

3. Old Business

- *Membership*

Last month the membership was at 430. The membership as of the date of the meeting was 492, an increase of 62 since last month.

Membership will probably continue to go up as the Fall Institute approaches and people try to avoid paying the non-member fee.

- Fall Institute Planning

Georgianna Braden submitted her report by email:

Currently, we have 182 people registered for the Fall Institutes. Most attendees are from Texas but we have several from New Mexico, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Maryland, Canada, and Germany.

We have received payment from all our sponsors, and the signs for each event (breaks, lunches, and dinners) have been completed with the logo from each sponsor. Additionally, we have finalized all the arrangements for all the breaks and the meals.

As for the papers, we still don't have papers for four speakers: Bob McAughan, Jeff Dodd, Valerie Friedrich and Ed Cavazos. Sindee has been in contact with all of them. Jeff Dodd and Ed Cavazos will not be able to produce their papers in time for the flash drive but will possibly have them ready to be put in the binder. They will bring a hard copy of their paper to the conference for everyone.

Valerie Friedrich and Sindee have been in contact but we haven't seen her paper yet. If we don't get it today, it won't make it to the flash drive. She will have to bring copies, as well. Bob McAughan has promised his paper for quite some time but we don't expect to receive it in time. In all instances, the papers will need to be made available on the HIPLA website once in hand so attendees can download them. We expect all materials (with exception of missing papers) to arrive on time Thursday and to be ready for distribution at the start of the conference.

I am comparing the projected costs/revenues for the Fall Institute and it appears that we will be on (or potentially slightly under) budget.

- Luncheons

There are two more luncheons planned for this year. On November 14, two attorneys from Africa will discuss IP rights in Africa. The holiday luncheon will be on December 15. The venue for the holiday luncheon was discussed with Brennan's being mentioned as a possibility. Matt Reeves said he would investigate the venue and make a recommendation by email. Entertainment for the holiday luncheon was discussed.

There will be a luncheon in January but not in February because of the Judge's Dinner. The last luncheon for this year will be in March.

Al Riddle suggested keeping luncheon talks to no more than 45 minutes.

- Scholarships

The web page was modified to direct students to the appropriate person at the various law schools to apply for scholarships and fellowships.

Scholarship and fellowship winners will be listed on the web page.

Brian Adams reported that he has approached all three local law schools and asked them to solicit applications. Two of the three law schools said they would do so.

Applications should be ready for board review by the end of October. The board will decide on the winners and the awards will be presented at the November or December luncheons.

The number of scholarships per law school was discussed. Anthony Matheny stated that the number of scholarships is limited to 3 per law school. That number has been reached with UH before but not with the other law schools.

Fellowships were discussed. Stephen Koch noted that there have not been many applications for fellowships in recent years. Anthony Matheny plans to promote the fellowships at the Judges Dinner.

- Fall Activity

We are looking at late 2010 or early 2011 for a fall activity. The St. Arnold's venue is being investigated for a pre-holiday season event.

- Judge's Dinner

The Judge's dinner will be held on February 23, 2011 at the Four Seasons, which will be somewhat more expensive than the Houstonian, where last year's dinner was held. Stephen Koch moved that the venue selection be approved and Charles Walker seconded. All voted to approve.

Anthony Matheny is considering asking an author who wrote a book about Cicero to be the speaker but he is still open to suggestions.

Stephen Koch noted that we do not pay honoraria to speakers.

- By-Laws Update

Al Riddle is still working on this and will report back at a later meeting.

4. New Business

- Bar Leaders Lunch

Al Riddle attended a brown bag luncheon at the HBA. The luncheon was an opportunity to get to know other bar leaders in Houston. The bar leaders reported on the activities of their organizations. Al reported on the Fall Institute.

- Website Updates

Al Riddle reported that he is having the amicus curiae briefs written by HIPLA added to the website along with information about scholarships and fellowships as discussed earlier. A mission statement about scholarships will also be added.

- HIPLA Domain Name Outside the US

It was decided that HIPLA will not register its trademarks outside the US. Elizabeth King offered to pursue registration for HIPLA's trademarks. She would donate her attorney's fees so that HIPLA would only have to pay costs. The subject was tabled. It will be placed on next month's agenda.

- Lawcast Proposal

Al Riddle had received a proposal from Lawcast offering to give our members discounts if we will send out product announcements on their behalf. It was decided to decline because of the possible increase in our member's email traffic.

- Institute Hotel for 2012

We have a contract to hold the 2011 Fall Institute at Moody Gardens. Moody Gardens has contacted us about locking in for 2012 but that has not yet been done. A survey will be done at this year's Fall Institute to discuss the venue for future Institutes. One possibility that was discussed was having the fall institute in Houston every other year and in Galveston every other year.

5. Next Board Meeting Date

Board meetings will be held on October 19 and November 16. Al Riddle will propose a December board meeting date.

6. Adjournment

Charles Walker moved for adjournment and Stephen Koch seconded. All approved and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Speight, Secretary