

SCOTT COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING: Attached are the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Executive Council for the month of February 2017. These Minutes have yet to be approved by the Executive Council and will be submitted to the Executive Council at its next meeting.

BARRISTER BALL DONATIONS: The Barrister Ball Committee is collecting donations in need of your red and white wines for the event. Please contact Sarah Gorham at sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law or Abby Furlong at afurlong@L-Wlaw.com with your donations.

GRANTS: There has only been one applicant for the two \$1,000 grants to those attending law school. Everyone is encouraged to contact anyone that might be interested and then contact Cobie at jcobie.law@qwestoffice.net

ORAL ARGUMENT OF SUPREME COURT: Justice Waterman announced the Iowa Supreme Court will be holding an oral argument in Davenport on Thursday evening, October 12. Steve Davis, Court Communications Officer, will be coordinating the logistics including venues for the argument and reception. We have not yet selected the case but look for one of local interest. In 2012 our local bench and bar and the QC chamber of commerce did a wonderful job as hosts for our court's second "court on the road" and we've now held court in twenty Iowa cities. Stay tuned for more information as the planning progresses.

TORT REFORMS: Please contact your legislators concerning your views concerning the loser in a lawsuit paying all attorney fees; limitations on medical/malpractice awards; judicial selection changes; mandatory mediation in dissolutions; expedited dissolutions; and other issues that might affect the judicial branch.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR: There are many issues going on in the legislature that can result in drastic changes. The most alarming situation is the underfunding of the judicial branch of our government. Please review the information contained in the Minutes. Everyone is encouraged to contact their legislators in support of our Court system and appropriate funding deemed necessary to help maintain Iowa to enjoy the reputation of one of the finest court systems in the country.

COURT INTERPRETER: Anyone needing a court interpreter for any language for a court proceeding should contact Court Administration as soon as the need is known.

NEW ADDRESS:

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HELP: We are trying to compile an updated list of the location of files of deceased and retired lawyers. Anyone with any information should contact D. Jasper at 332-8181 or janet.jasperlaw@qwestoffice.net

CHANGES: Everyone should provide any changes in your address, telephone, e-mail or other information to Wing at spwing@iabar.org so current information can be used on the website.

NEED HELP?: Problems with alcohol, drugs, stress or depression? Call Iowa Lawyers Assistance Program at 1-800-243-1533. All calls are confidential.

Any member having any comments may contact the President or an Executive Council member for comments on any matters. Further, any member may request a reservation at the monthly meeting for a presentation to the Executive Council by contacting the President.

SCOTT COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

February 28, 2017

Present: Corbin, Furlong, McElyea, Walker, Aitken, Kaplan, Samuelson, Copell, Jasper

Guest: Russell of the Board of Governors

The meeting of the Executive Council was held at the Front Street Brewery and was called to order at 12:10 p.m. by President Kaplan.

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Council of January 31, 2017, were unanimously approved without amendment.

Jacobs submitted a written financial report indicating we have more income than expenses at this time for this year.

Cobie was not present as he indicated there was only one applicant for the two grants. More time is needed to receive at least another applicant.

Although on the Agenda there was no discussion on the availability of our directory to other entities nor was there any further discussion concerning the advertising in the Newsletter. These two issues should no longer need any further discussion.

Kaplan spoke to the issue of the elimination of our Grievance Committee. Jasper indicated it was a standing committee within our Bylaws and to eliminate this committee there has to be a majority vote by the membership at an annual or regular meeting. After a general discussion and knowing the State wants all grievances sent to the State, it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to abolish the Scott County Grievance Committee and put it before the membership for a vote.

Kaplan reported on the District 7 Bar Meeting with Chief Judge Greve. The biggest concern was the budget. Last year it was approximately \$175,000,000 and this year there is a \$3,000,000 cut. In addition to that there are increases that only add to the problem resulting in a deficit even greater than the \$3,000,000. There have been no pay increases for Judges for many years; 11 judge positions have not been filled; and 111 other worker positions have not been filled. A furlough day is proposed for May 26, 2017; the problem just worsens every day. It is very difficult to have hearings scheduled in the

smaller counties and in fact one county reports trials for dissolutions of marriage are already set in the year 2018. All members are encouraged to contact their legislators in support of funding of the Court system in an appropriate manner.

There are tort reform bills that include the loser in the lawsuit being responsible to pay all the attorney fees for the so-called winner; major changes in worker's comp; limits on medical malpractice; and major changes in selecting Judges with possibly only one lawyer being on the commission without voting privileges. Olsen is on a committee with Judge Reidel for suggestions. A mandatory medical bill seems to be forthcoming. The pilot program for the expedited dissolutions is still considered and was discussed at the last meeting. Courthouse security is improving, however, the Muscatine County does not forbid guns in the Courthouse.

Judge Greve suggested a district wide Fee Dispute Committee with members from the different counties. This is going to be a considered further.

Russell, as our representative to the Board of Governors, inquired as to the length of service and any reappointment/election requirements. Jasper is to review the notes from previous meetings to report next month.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis D. Jasper

Secretary

DDJ/jg