



MINUTES
HIPLA BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 4, 2007

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Those in attendance –

Paul Morico
Al Kimball
Marcella Watkins
Stephen Koch
Anthony Matheny
Jennifer Adamson
Michael Locklar
Randy Furlong
Natalie Wright
Georgianna Witt
Jeffrey Johnson
Chris Shield
Steve Spears
Shawn Foster
Al Riddle

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Jennifer Adamson noted one correction to the balance of HIPLA's account. The correct amount should be \$155,634.00. With amendment, Michael Locklar moved to approve the minutes. Randy Furlong seconded. All were in favor.

2. Treasurer's Report

Jennifer Adamson reported she had not yet received a statement from the accountant, but HIPLA's current account balance of is \$283,689.32. Jennifer also reported that she is trying to find out from the accountant how much money HIPLA needs to spend each year to maintain its non-profit status. Jennifer will follow-up with the accountant.

3. Committee Reports

a. Fall Institute – Al Riddle

Al Riddle reported that the Institute was going smoothly and that the Institute had over 280 attendees.

b. Long Range Planning – Steve Koch

Steve reported that the Long Range Planning committee met on September 26, 2007, to discuss various proposals. The committee decided to consider all of the proposals and to meet again near the end of 2007. At that time, the committee plans to prioritize the list of proposals and give the prioritized list to the Board during the December, 2007 Board meeting.

c. Website Overhaul – Chris Shield

Chris reported that the website overhaul was moving along and that a “beta” site would soon be up for the website committee to access and review. One item discussed was whether members (regular, student, etc.) should be able to prevent any information from being posted in the directory. It was decided that the website should give everyone the option of keeping each piece of information out of the directory. That way, each member would be responsible for “opting-out” of publication of any contact information.

d. Law School Scholarship Fund – Steven Spears

Steven reported that one individual, Michael Schuster, submitted an application for a HIPLA fellowship. Steven reported that Mr. Schuster is well qualified and that he recommended approval of the fellowship. Jeffrey Johnson moved to approve the fellowship. Anthony Matheny seconded. All were in favor.

Steven also reported that he was waiting on proposals from the three area laws schools regarding the HIPLA Scholarship program. After he received all of the proposals, he would put together a procedure for the Board to consider.

e. Meeting Arrangements/Program – Shawn Foster

Shawn reported that 92 people attended the September luncheon and 86 people attended the August luncheon. Shawn also reported that HIPLA is currently paying approximately \$500-\$750 per luncheon to subsidize the cost of the luncheons. Shawn reported that the December luncheon would be on December 13, 2007 at Tony’s, and the November luncheon will be held November 15, 2007, but the location had not been set, and Shawn is working on the speaker.

Shawn noted that the restaurants normally charge HIPLA for the Audio-Visual (“A-V”) set up and that some of the equipment is not very good. Shawn proposed that HIPLA hire an outside party to handle the A-V set-up because the equipment is better and HIPLA would likely save money, especially if HIPLA were to commit to a certain number of luncheons. The Board asked Shawn to investigate the cost and report back.

Shawn also reported that the new walk-up policy has greatly reduced the number of people showing-up without registering. The past few luncheons have averaged 5-8 walk-ups (compared to 20-30 before the policy) and the restaurants have been able to handle these additional people with no problems.

f. Judges Dinner – Marcella Watkins

Marcella reported that the Judges Dinner would be held February 21, 2008, cocktails at 6:30 pm, dinner at 7:00 pm. Anthony will send out a “save the date” e-mail to the membership. The speaker will be Joel Barch, President of the Houston Museum of Natural History. The fellowship award to Michael Schuster will be announced at the Dinner.

g. National IP Associations – Patty Meier

Patty reported that AIPLA had set up some ambitious goals for 2007, but it has not followed through on most of them. Sharon Israel will attend the AIPLA Annual Meeting in Patty’s stead. Patty will attend the AIPLA Mid-Winter meeting.

4. Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held November 13, 2007, at 5:00 pm.

5. New Business

Pro Bono – Paul Morico

Paul proposed that HIPLA consider setting up a program to provide pro bono services or other volunteer service to the community. Paul proposed Habitat for Humanity or staffing the HBA Legal Lines. Paul invited suggestions from the Board for further discussion at the next Board meeting.

6. Old Business

Amicus Committee – Michael Locklar

Michael reported that the Amicus Committee was evaluating whether to recommend to the Board to file an amicus brief in the LG case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The Amicus Committee was going to meet to discuss and Michael will report its recommendation to the Board at the November Board meeting.

7. On motion by Randy Furlong, seconded by Jennifer Adamson, the Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.