



MINUTES
HIPLA BOARD MEETING
MAY 27, 2008

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Those in attendance –

Marcella Watkins
Steve Koch
Al Riddle (telecon)
Steven Spears
Michael Locklar (telecon)
Georgianna Witt Braden
Randy Furlong
Natalie Wright (telecon)
Joe Beauchamp (telecon)
Chris Shield
Jeremy Welch (telecon)
Carey Jordan
Shane Nelson (telecon)

1. Approval of Minutes of previous two meetings

Witt moved for acceptance; Shield seconded. All approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

The bank balance as of 1 May 2008 was \$139,294.44. Checks written since May 1 totaled approximately \$1,200.

In light of Budget issues raised at the April meeting, Mike Locklar presented an annual budget projection for review by the Board, discussed in more detail below.

3. Committee Reports

- Law School Scholarships

All Spring, 2008 Scholarship checks have been paid. Work is underway to award scholarships in the Fall Semester, instead of the Spring Semester. The Abbot fellowship check has been returned because Abbot opted to obtain course credit for the fellowship.

- **Inventor Of The Year**

Six nominations were received and reviewed by Randy Furlong and his committee. Furlong reported the committee's recommendation that the award be given to Dr. Clifford Ray of Fairfield Technology for an invention related to seismic data acquisition. Koch moved for approval and Witt seconded. All approved (Locklar abstained).

- **Entertainment**

Shane Nelson reported on the status of the Golf Tournament. A question was raised regarding money still owed for last year's tournament. Nelson and Beauchamp will work to resolve the issue.

- **Lunches**

Jeremy Welch reported that Smith & Wolensky has agreed to give HIPLA a \$10 per person discount on lunches if HIPLA agrees to host five lunches per year there. Jeremy will further investigate the details, and the Board will inquire of the membership whether this would be well received.

4. Budget

- Mike Locklar reported that, based upon his rough estimates, HIPLA's expenses may potentially exceed its revenue this year by approximately \$63,000. Of that amount, \$47,500 are one-time expenses, including \$27,000 for additional scholarships resulting from switching to award the scholarships in the Fall, \$5,500 for website upgrades, and \$15,000 for CPA fees (no invoice received for 2.5 years). That leaves an estimated standard yearly shortfall of \$16,000.

- The Board discussed ways to make up the estimated yearly shortfall, including (i) increasing the monthly dues from \$50 to \$75, (ii) increasing the price charged to members for monthly lunches, (iii) decreasing the number of scholarships awarded, or other budget items, and (iv) increasing the fall institute costs.

- Koch moved, and Witt seconded that it be put to a vote at the May 29th lunch to amend the bylaws to increase the dues to \$75 per year. All approved. This would be the first dues increase in over ten years.

- It was also discussed whether a February 2009 Judges Dinner should be had this year, if the November 2009 CAFC visit to Houston will also involve a judges dinner. Steve Koch and

Marcella Watkins will report further details on this after meeting with the CAFC planning team this week.

5. Old Business

- Prior to the meeting, the Board approved by e-mail vote to co-sponsor the South Texas College of Law reception, and to provide \$200 in funding.

6. New Business

- Steve Koch and Marcella Watkins will be meeting this week with personnel from the CAFC as part of planning the CAFC visit in November, 2009.
- Following the May 29 lunch and the vote on amending the by-laws regarding membership dues, the membership renewal page on the web-site will be “unfrozen” with correct renewal fees included.
- It was decided to announce the South Texas reception via e-mail to the members because HIPLA is co-sponsoring the reception.
- It was also discussed that HIPLA should not use its e-mail announcements for standard bar activities that are not HIPLA-related and which HIPLA does not sponsor.
- Dr. Schaffner, a scientist but not a lawyer or patent agent, requested to become a member of HIPLA. Because HIPLA’s by-laws require one of these qualifications for membership, his request was denied.

7. Next Board Meeting date – June 17, 2008 at Baker & Botts.

Adjourned at 5:55.