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## HIPLA Board Meeting Minutes August 24, 2010

In Attendance:

Al Riddle\*  
Anthony Matheny \*  
Joe Beauchamp  
Howard Speight\*  
Michael Locklar  
Steve Koch\*  
Elizabeth King  
Ted Ro  
Carey Jordan  
Jennifer Carnahan  
Charles Walker  
Mark Chretien\*  
Luke Culpepper  
Ken Keeling  
\*in person, the rest by phone

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Al Riddle called the meeting to order. Anthony Matheny moved, with Howard Speight seconding, to approve the meeting minutes from the March 2010 meetings. All approved.

2. Treasurer's Report

Joe Beauchamp reported that as of the end of July 2010, the HIPLA account had a balance of approximately \$153,000. There was about \$5,400 in checks in transit leaving a balance of approximately \$158,000. That puts us about \$14,000 ahead of where we were last year but that is at least partially due to the large profit from last year's Judge's Dinner. Joe noted that we are likely to lose a small amount of money on this year's Judge's Dinner. Also, membership renewals are running behind last year. Al Riddle urged the people attending the meeting to confirm that they had renewed.

### 3. Old Business

#### - *Amicus Brief*

Al Riddle reported on behalf of Steve Spears that the *Therasense* brief, drafted by Robert McAughan and Jeff Andrews of Locke Lord, had been filed. Al said he would have the brief posted on the web page.

The Amicus committee decided not to write an amicus brief in the *Tivo* case.

#### - *Golf Tournament*

Luke Culpepper reported that the HIPLA golf tournament went very well. 63 players competed at the Quail Creek golf course. Eight sponsors contributed money and four sponsors made in-kind donations (t-shirts, etc.).

The tournament produced \$7400 in income and \$6700 in expenses resulting in a profit of \$668. Much of the profit resulted from the golf course allowing Luke to purchase water and drinks at Costco at fraction of the cost that the golf course would charge.

#### - *Summer Activity*

Al Riddle reported that there had been no success at finding a sponsor for the summer activity and that it had been abandoned. Al said that he would work with Luke Culpepper to set up a fall activity such as last year's event at the St. Arnold's brewery.

#### - *Fall Institute Planning* (Report submitted by email)

Georgianna Braden reported we have 38 people pre-registered but it is early still. According to Sindee Bielamowicz at UH, we can expect most people to register during the second and third weeks of September.

Also, budgeted total expenses for the Fall Institute are approximately \$80,800 before UH pays for its share. HIPLA budgeted \$45,000. Currently we are slightly under budget for expenses and Georgianna estimated we may only spend \$43,500. But that is subject to change in the event we have unexpected expenses.

For attendees with computers, several rows at the front, middle, and back of the room will be set up with power cords. Plus, wi-fi will be provided so that attendees will have wireless access to the internet.

The welcome reception on Thursday evening will be pool side and will offer roast sirloin carving stations, a vegetable tray, a shrimp tray, seafood empanadas, and wild mushroom and brie on croutons.

Breakfast on Friday morning will include ham, egg and cheese croissants, and a selection of muffins, danish and bagels, plus a fruit tray. Lunch on Friday will include a field green/goat cheese salad, chicken piccata, penne pasta with sautéed vegetables and tomato sauce, and key lime pie for dessert. The break will include cookies, granola bars, and yogurt.

The Friday night dinner will be in the Aquarium. It has been renovated since Ike and is very nice (doesn't leak or smell like fish). The theme is a subtle Louisiana/Gulf Coast atmosphere. Everybody will receive mardi gras beads when they enter the Aquarium (tasteful beads with dolphins, flamingos, alligators, crawfish, or pirates on them). Cocktails, including champagne and mint juleps, and hors d'oeuvres, including shrimp/andouille sausage kebabs and smoked salmon on toast points, will be passed upstairs. Then people can move downstairs for a buffet dinner (including a kids buffet). The buffet will include: 1) salads and gumbo for appetizers; 2) creole chicken, shrimp etouffe, and pecan-encrust catfish as entree choices; and 3) key lime pie, chocolate cake, and bourbon bread pudding for dessert choices. The kids buffet will include chicken strips, macaroni n' cheese, carrot sticks with ranch dressing, cookies, and lemonade. The tables will have white table cloths with a burlap overlay and hurricane candles/lanterns on drift wood platforms surrounded by sand and oyster shells for center pieces. A dixieland/jazz trio will play during cocktails and dinner.

*- Membership*

M. Chretien reported that, as of the date of the meeting, HIPLA is at 430 members, as compared to 580 members in April 2010. Ron Derrington is going to send out an email reminding people to renew, which should cause a spike in renewals. Similarly, the September 8 deadline to register for the Fall Institute should also cause an increase.

Mark reported that a member inquired as to whether there is a pro rata option for paying a reduced amount for paying for membership late in the year. Steve Koch reported that the bylaws provide that there is no such option.

*- Judges Dinner*

Anthony Matheny reported that he had checked with UH regarding the Baker Botts lecture, which will occur on March 23, and other spring activities and determined that February is wide open for the Judge's

Dinner. Anthony will call the Four Seasons and try to set the date at either Wednesday, February 23 or Thursday, February 24.

It was agreed that there will be no HIPLA luncheon in February. Al said he would inform Matt Reeves.

It was decided that federal judges and magistrates from the Southern and Eastern Districts of Texas will be invited. It was decided that a judge's clerks would be invited if the judge inquired about bringing his or her clerks.

Al Riddle and Anthony will consider whether state judges should be invited and whether table sponsorships should be offered. Al indicated that the cost of table sponsorships, if they are allowed, should be more than the cost of the seats around the table.

Anthony asked for speaker suggestions. He expressed a preference for a local speaker to keep costs down.

- *By-Laws Update*

Draft still in progress.

#### 4. New Business

- *Houston Inventors Association/USPTO/Pro Bono*

Al Riddle, Joe Beauchamp, and Mike Locklar reported on a lunch they had with a representative of the Houston Inventors Association (HIA) and John Calvert of the USPTO.

The HIA representative indicated a continuing interest in a closer relationship with HIPLA. Al Riddle will take to Phil Johnson about identifying HIPLA members who might be willing to speak at an HIA meeting. It was suggested that the HIA representative be offered a short time to speak at a HIPLA luncheon. Elizabeth King said she would give up part of her time at the September luncheon when she is scheduled to speak. Al said he would talk to Matt Reeves about this.

John Calvert suggested that HIPLA consider starting a pro bono effort along the lines of that being considered in Minnesota. Al reported that he asked Mr. Calvert for the name of a contact in Minnesota but has not yet received it. Al indicated that if HIPLA decides to support a pro bono effort it may need to be done through the Houston Bar Association, which has mechanisms for facilitating pro bono work, such as the ability to identifying people who are eligible for pro bono. It was decided to table this topic until more is known about the Minnesota effort.

*- Houston Children's Museum*

Al Riddle reported that the Houston Children's Museum (HCM) has an inventor program that focuses on elementary and middle school age children. Al invited suggestions as to how HIPLA might get involved in this effort, such as offering an award at the program.

Michael Locklar reported that HCM is also looking for judges with technical backgrounds for the inventor program.

5. Next Board Meeting Date

It was agreed that the next meeting will occur on September 21, 2010.

6. Adjournment

Steve Koch moved for adjournment and Joe Beauchamp seconded. All approved and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Howard L. Speight, Secretary

