



## June 23, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm by Howard Speight. The following board members were in attendance:

**Howard Speight**  
**Carlyn A. Burton**  
**Iona Kaiser**  
**Ted Ro**  
**Andrea Tran**  
**Keana Taylor**  
**Lee Eubanks**  
**Jennifer Sickler**  
**Tammy Pennington Rhodes**  
**Albert Liou**

### **Approval of Minutes from May 2015**

The May 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved. Ted moved to approve the May 2015 meeting minutes. Iona seconded, and the motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report – Carlyn Burton**

For the two months ending April 30, 2015, we have had total income of \$16,367.00 and total expenses of \$22,125.38. Our ending cash balance on May 31, 2015, was \$240,190.55.

The EPO event total was around 9k in expenses and \$2k in income. However, with the dinner before that HIPLA hosted for the EPO and USPTO officials, we are slightly over the 5k budget.

### **Membership Committee Report**

Brad is not on the call, but Howard noted that we are about to send out notices concerning renewal.

### **Fall Institute Update – Keana Taylor**

There are only a few sponsorships opportunities left, with invitations for those opportunities currently out. All speakers are confirmed (and in fact we will have more than need, so we might increase hours). For Friday evening, we will have a casino night and wine tasting before.

### **Calendar and Luncheons – Tammy Pennington Rhodes**

We have a need for a luncheon speaker in August. We have an offer from an individual, Michael McCabe, to speak on ethics. Tammy asked if anyone had heard of him and will send out an email to the entire group to confirm.

Tammy and Carlyn will look into getting income/expenses report for each lunch.



### **Outcome of email vote on the following resolution:**

Resolved that the amendments to the bylaws shown in the attached document [they were attached to Howard Speight's June 6, 2015 email to the Board] are tentatively approved to allow solicitation of bids to improve or replace the existing HIPLA web page and to allow the Board to evaluate the cost and timing of such improvements or replacements to determine the advisability of submitting the bylaws amendment and the resulting web page improvement or modification to the membership.

There were enough votes to pass. The bylaw change has been approved by the board and so will proceed with getting quotes for the new site. The problem with the payment system on current site is clear from recent experiences.

### **Outcome of email discussion on participation in Texas Global Innovation and Intellectual Property Summit – Howard Speight**

Howard received a visit from Bill Hulse who was soliciting our support for the summit so that they could report to Cornyn's staff that they had participation of at least 200 people (the number that Cornyn's staff tries to obtain to commit to participation in an event). Due to the closeness of timing of the summit and Fall Institute, the board determined by email vote that we did not want to be an active participant. HIPLA individuals might attend, but HIPLA will not actively promote. We will offer to sell our mailing list in form of printed labels.

### **Discussion on ProBono Efforts**

From this, discussion on pro bono, Albert has looked into this. Bill Hulse's group is one of 2 that is trying to set up a pro bono program. HIPLA has been approached by USPTO to be a partner. They are working with the Federal Bar Association to receive referrals from the association so that they can fall within the malpractice program of the association. This is one possibility that we can explore.

The other group is TALA. We have been in touch with them, but they are not as far along. They intend to offer some sort of insurance.

The idea is that HIPLA could serve as a partner of one of two to roll up within the programs to offer assistance within the Houston area.

### **Outcome of email vote to authorize the amicus committee to draft an amicus brief in the In re Cordua Restaurants case – Howard Speight**

The vote was in favor of preparing brief.

### ***Additional Committee reports***

#### **Entertainment - Andrew Ward.**

The bonus happy hour is on July 30 with additional details to come as time goes on.

#### **Amicus Committee – Lee Eubanks**

Charles Knobloch is working on draft of brief and expects to get finished shortly. We will have



input from at least one TM attorney.

Betsy King is representing one of the parties. The committee has been very deliberate in firewalling her off of process but wants to raise one question. Generally, the committee will pull briefs that have already been filed. Our brief is due July 17. Betsy has offered to provide a copy of her brief one week before her brief is due (July 10) because she will be on vacation. Betsy likely will be making different arguments on appeal than TTAB, which had different counsel so it could be beneficial to have it. If it is received early, then board would have additional time to review and approve. Board has no concerns, so it will be left up to the committee to decide whether to accept the early brief from Betsy. The Board is fine with timing if not accepted early.

#### **Jennifer Sickler – IOTY**

The IOTY lunch was today. There 2 inventors from Molecular Rebar. So the committee's work is done.

#### **Next Meeting – August 26, 2015**

Howard will try to set something up in person.

Wednesday, August 26, 5:00 pm  
Dial-in Number: [1-302-202-1114](tel:1-302-202-1114)  
Conference Code: 986809  
Host Code: 4431

Andrea moved to adjourn the meeting, and Ted seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:36.