

May 13, 2015 Meeting

The meeting was called to order on May 13, 2015 by Howard Speight. The following people attended:

Howard Speight, Keana Taylor, **Jason Sander**, **Ted Ro**, **Carlyn Burton**, **Albert Liou**, **Iona Kaiser**, **Keith Jaasma**, Steve Boyd, Jennifer Sickler, Andrew Ward, Tammy Pennington, Lee Eubanks

- 1) Approval of minutes from April
 - a. Motion to approve by Iona; seconded by Albert. None opposed; approved.
- 2) Treasurer's report – Carlyn Burton
 - a. No questions
- 3) Membership committee report
 - a. We won't be able to move to the new scheme of rolling membership before the June 30th deadline.
 - b. Keith volunteered to help out with the issue. Howard said the bylaw change needs to happen first. Keith will talk to Shawn Foster.
- 4) Web page update – Howard Speight
 - a. Howard responded to comments that he received. He made the fixes.
- 5) Fall Institute update – Keana Taylor
 - a. Our current registration fee is \$495 for members, \$395 for government employees, and \$595 for non-members. Keana proposes to raise each of those amounts by \$100. She also proposes to double the cost of the printed course materials from \$75 to \$150. The last price increase I see is in 2010, by \$20.

For comparison, the Advanced IP Law Institute CLE is \$795 (\$50 discount for early registration), the UT Patent Law CLE is \$660, and the UT Technology Law CLE is \$595.

Moody Gardens has indicated that we need to budget 20% more for food and beverage costs alone. Even though we are profitable (and will remain profitable without a price increase), it is because of Betsy's stellar fundraising last year with the Wine & Cheese pairing that we saw gains over the previous year's profits.

 - b. Jason Sander motioned for the increase as proposed by Keana Taylor, but added an exception for solos (only one lawyer in a firm) and in-house to pay the government rate. Iona Kaiser seconded. None were opposed. Motion passes.
- 6) Calendar – Tammy Pennington Rhodes
 - a. Tammy has updated the calendar as new events are brought to her attention.
- 7) Gold Tournament update – Andrew Ward
 - a. We will have a record high crowd with around 80 people signed up.
- 8) Membership cycle and bylaws change
 - a. No update.
- 9) Committee reports

- a. IOTY lunch is set for June 25 pending availability of the IOTY (June 23 is the backup date). The committee met and selected an IOTY. The details were presented to the board, but are confidential until the award is presented in June. Albert Liou moved to accept the nomination; Jason Sander seconded. The motion passed.
- b. Lee Eubanks—the amicus committee reviewed two cases this month: Lexmark International and In re Tam. The committee opted not to prepare any amicus briefs.

10) New Business

- a. Good turnout at the spring happy hour – the sponsor was pleased. Sandy Seth (a solo) called Andrew because he wants to sponsor a happy hour. Andrew is proposing a July happy hour – probably in mid-town. Howard approved the additional happy hour.
- b. Ted Ro – February 18, 2016 federal judge’s dinner. Gene Kranz will be speaker. He is a retired NASA flight director and manager. He led the efforts to save the crew of Apollo 13 mission. His normal rate is around \$30,000; however, because Ted works at NASA and we are non-profit, his speaker fee is reduced to \$3,000 if we donated to a charitable organization of his choice. He is local so we don’t need to pay for his flight or hotel.
- c. HBA asked if HIPLA will co-sponsor judge Reyna’s August 21st talk. The co-sponsorship will likely involve splitting transportation cost.
- d. Howard plans to pursue ways to get HIPLA involved in the Texas IP Summit on August 27, 2015.

11) Date for next meeting – June 23, 5pm

12) Adjourn -- motion to adjourn made by Keith Jaasma. Ted Ro seconded. None opposed. Meeting adjourned.