

July 27, 2016 HIPLA Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order on July 27, 2016 by Ted Ro. The following individuals were in attendance:

Ted Ro, Keana Taylor, Andrea Tran, Howard Speight, Iona Kaiser, Steve Boyd, Ifti Ahmed, Rob Green, Lee Eubanks, Vinny Raj, Tammy Pennington, Monica Katthage, Carlyn Burton, Jennifer Sickler, Sparkle Ellison, Keith Jaasma

Approval of June minutes: Steve moved to approve. Keana seconded. None opposed. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning cash as of May 31, 2016: \$261,499.21

Ending cash as of June 30, 2016: \$277,561.96 (final balance w/ outstanding checks \$274,488.17)

The Board discussed a history of HIPLA's bank balances, with a mean balance of approximately \$150,000. The trend in account balances have paralleled the recent recession during 2007-2009, with increases seen after 2009.

Taxes for 2015 have not yet been file. Jason will update again next meeting.

By-law amendment proposal: The Board discussed removing the patent office liaisons from Board membership since: (1) they typically do not attend Board meetings, and (2) including liaisons on the Board affects the ability to reach a quorum. Ted solicited a volunteer to draft an amendment to the HIPLA by-laws. If no one volunteers, Ted will ask individual Board members.

Social Committee: Rob reported that registration for the summer happy hour was full. Baba Yega can fit approximately 95 people standing. Turnout of past happy hours have been in the range of 30-50 and our current registration exceed this amount. About two-thirds of registrants are non-members. Gift cards will be awarded as prizes only to current members.

Monthly luncheons: The September 15th lunch will be held at La Griglia. There will be a break in October due to the Galveston Institute. The November luncheon is scheduled for the 17th. The Holiday Luncheon scheduled for December 11th will be held at Reef. Tammy requested speakers for luncheons in 2017.

Calendar: Ted mentioned the summer happy hour, the ABA Annual Meeting on August 4-8, the State Bar Advanced Patent Litigation CLE (just passed), the AIPLA Annual Meeting on September 10-14, The World Congress Meeting, and the Federal Bar Meeting on September 16-17.

Bar Leaders' conference: Ted attended and highly recommended the conference to other officers of HIPLA. Highlights/recommendations of the conference included: (1) holding a Board orientation meeting at the beginning of an organizational year to go over meeting management and to review by-laws; (2) propose a consent agenda combining recurring motions into one motion; (3) free services of the SBOT including one set of free mailing labels per year, one email blast per year, and free archive services for minutes, outreach materials, briefs, etc.; (4) announcement of electronic format to request CLE credit going online in August of 2016; (5) discussion of electronic/social media such as blogging, micro-volunteering, the SBOT's uses of Facebook and LinkedIn, and the trend towards mobility; and (6) mention that the SBOT provides grants for local bar projects with a priority on pro bono projects.

Upcoming Board meeting: Ted proposed skipping the August Board meeting. No objections. The next meeting (in-person) will be held at Little Pappasitos (upper Kirby) on September 20, 2016.

Motion to adjourn: Ted moved to adjourn the meeting. Andrea seconded. No objections. The meeting was adjourned.