

June 29, 2016 Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order on June 29, 2016 by Ted Ro. The following individuals were in attendance:

Ted Ro, Betsy King, Keana Taylor, Jason Sander, Andrea Tran, Howard Speight, Albert Liou, Keith Jaasma, Iona Kaiser, Steve Boyd, Ifti Ahmed, Rob Green, Lee Eubanks, Vinny Raj, Tammy Pennington, Wasif Qureshi, Jennifer Sickler, Monica Katthage¹ (formerly Moussighi), Sparkle Ellison, and Carlyn Burton

Approval of May minutes: Albert moved to approve. Keith seconded. None opposed. Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning cash as of April 30, 2016: \$263,525.79

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

Lunch support proposal: Jason presented the proposal to pay Dorothy \$75 per lunch for the following services: (1) attend monthly luncheons; (2) provide list of attendees; (3) provide registrants' name tags; and (4) process credit card payments for walk-in attendees. The Board considered a motion to pay for Dorothy's lunch at each luncheon. Ted moved to consider Dorothy's lunch support proposal including paying for her lunches. Jason seconded. None opposed. Dorothy's proposal for lunch support was approved.

Jason will execute a memo of understanding (MOU) with Dorothy. Tammy and her assistant will work with Dorothy on name tags and the Eventbrite account.

Social Media/Website: Monica reported that Facebook (FB) has the most activity of HIPLA's social media. She will post details of the Galveston Institute on FB. She asked the Board to invite colleagues to HIPLA's FB page and LinkedIn group, and solicited content (e.g., articles) for LinkedIn. Keana will post photos from the IOY Awards lunch on FB. HIPLA's Twitter and Instagram accounts are on hold due to low usage.

¹ Congratulations Monica on your recent marriage!

Wasif received the following quotes for semi-custom websites from local web developers: (1) Zulu: \$13-18K depending on the cost of migrating current data to the new platform; and (2) Savage Brands: \$17,500 plus the cost of developing code for a mobile platform, which may run an additional \$8,000. Wasif will work with developers to clarify cost issues including monthly service fees and subscriptions.

Scholarship: With respect to a proposed joint scholarship between HIPLA and the Nancy Atlas Inn of Court, Ted mentioned that Priya has not received much feedback from the Board. He recommended giving another month for the Board to provide Priya with specific recommendations/solutions. Members of the Board discussed balance of interests for HIPLA and the Inn.

Pro Bono Initiative: The USPTO reached out to Albert about the pro bono patent drafting and prosecution service. Members of the Board discussed HIPLA's interest in support of the pro bono service and issues regarding malpractice insurance. Albert also discussed the Texas Accountants and Lawyers for the Arts (TALA) request for HIPLA's input and/or involvement on its steering committee. Members of the Board discussed issues related to screening applicants, amount of work performed during screenings, prior art searching, and the drafting of provisional and/or non-provisional patent applications. Albert would like to promote and advertise TALA's Patent Pro Bono program among the HIPLA membership. Tammy volunteer to assist TALA. Ted suggested facilities such as JLABS at the Texas Medical Center and the Houston Technology Center to host workshops.

Membership Drive/Happy Hour: Rob discussed details of the summer happy hour to be held on July 28th at Baba Yega, sponsored by Patbak (Sandy Seth's group). The event will have a maximum capacity of 95 people and Patbak is willing to pay for 40 attendees. Patbak has no issues with advertising the summer happy hour as a HIPLA membership drive event but is concerned about increased attendance above 40 attendees. Members of the Board discussed drink tickets and estimate costs for the event in the range of \$33 to \$40 per person if there are no drink tickets. Rob noted that Patbak has no interest in using drink tickets because Patbak wants to ensure everyone has a good time and does not want to tarnish its reputation. A financial return on investment was discussed whereby it was noted that for every new member that registered because of the summer happy hour, the additional cost for the summer happy hour paid by HIPLA will be effectively reduced. Howard chimed in that he thought it

would be money well spent. Ted made a motion to approve paying additional expenses beyond the 40 attendees to be paid by the sponsor. Andrea/Keana seconded. None opposed. The motion passed.

Wasif will draft membership renewal emails. Andrea will send membership renewal notices and happy hour invitations to HIPLA members and non-members.

2017 Judges Dinner: Betsy announced that Sharon Prost, Chief Judge of the Federal Circuit, has agreed to be keynote speaker for the event. Everyone agreed having Chief Judge Prost as the keynote speaker for the 2017 Judges Dinner was a significant achievement.

Inventor of the Year (IOY): Jennifer said that the IOY award went to Lewis Waters for his invention related to automatic and passively-activated floodgates. She is working on the press release for the event.

Calendar: Wasif attended the Texas State Bar Annual Meeting and represented HIPLA. Ted will attend the Texas Bar Leaders Conference in mid-July. Upcoming events include ABA meetings and the July Happy Hour.

Fall Institute: Carlyn spoke with UH IPIL/Greg Vetter about the Fall Institute. Vetter proposed that the Thursday evening dinner traditionally held for the Institute speakers and HIPLA Officers is expanded whereby officers of the Nancy Atlas Inn of Court are also invited. Additional costs would be shared by HIPLA and UH IPIL. Members of the Board discussed whether the combined dinner could set a precedent. A vote on this matter was tabled as Carlyn articulated that a vote is not required at this time and can wait until September. Carlyn mentioned that Kara Stoll, Circuit Judge of the Federal Circuit, will be the Institute keynote speaker and asked whether golf outing on Saturday is something we want to do because UH IPIL/Sindee Bielamowicz asked this question. Ted provided his counsel to skip the golf outing due to relatively low turnout and low networking opportunities. The Institute brochure will be printed in 2 weeks.

Motion to adjourn: Ted adjourned the meeting.