

National Conference of Bar Foundations
Board of Trustees Retreat & Fall Board Meeting
October 16-17, 2017
American Bar Association
Chicago, IL

NOTE: Prior to this meeting an orientation session was held for new incoming Board members which was well attended.

The meeting was called to order by President Leslie Barineau at 1 pm. She asked for everyone to introduce themselves and share any Alabama connection. Those in attendance included: Andrea Stone, Tom Hull, Mary Groth, Deborah Auspelmyer, Ali Fannon, Jim Huggler, Hinda Carbon, Karen Ruan, Kevin Cousins, Nikki Tucker Thomas, ABA staff Rebecca Green-Jablonsky , Pam Robinson and Tondanisha Tomlinson.

Leslie distributed a Board member expectations sheet and asked all Board members to sign and return to her today or tomorrow. She also encouraged all Board members to join her in making their personal contribution to NCBF.

Rebecca reviewed the reimbursement form for the meeting and asked everyone to complete and submit soon after their return home. The group then reviewed the 2017-18 timeline on pages 23-25 of the Board Manual – noting dates for future conference calls and meetings of the Executive Committee and the full Board. Other dates including e-newsletter publication dates were also discussed.

Membership report:

Membership Chair Tom Hull said that our goal for 2017-18 is 90 organizational members. We are in the lows 60's at this moment which compares favorably with last year. The Membership Committee has been making contacts and will ask the Board to accept a few assignments too.

Budget report:

A budget report from Tondanisha Tomlinson, Finance and Business Administrator shows that we are slightly ahead of last year at this same time. Expenses from the August meeting in New York were within budget.

Website report:

Rebecca reported that statistics show that ncbf.org website hits peaked in August/September which was likely related to the NYC meeting and its follow-up. The Resource Library categories were reviewed and work will be done by Lorrie, Mary and Karen on this important resource for our members. We are looking for member testimonials and videos in the future. There will be mid-year Vancouver information posted shortly.

Listserv report:

Deb will schedule Board members to post various questions to provide on-going member interaction and education. Maybe our website should have a blurb that encourages listserv questions. The posting instructions seem fairly complete.

Vancouver mid-year meeting – February 1-3, 2018:

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Andrea is excited about the meeting content which includes a Gates Foundation representative which Rene McPhedran helped line up. The King Co Bar Association (Seattle) will give a program on their Breakfast of Champions which is an innovative way for General Counsels to be involved with bar foundation programs. Lorrie was working on a planned giving speaker from Pittsburgh and another round table discussion might be "What keeps you up at night?" with tables for small, medium and large bars.

NOTE: Monday evening included a group dinner near the Chicago riverfront with former Board member Judge Deb Walker joining us.

Tuesday morning session:

Bar reports:

Andrea reported on the outpouring of support after Hurricane Harvey . They had an online donation site up and running by the Monday after the storm hit Houston. Texas Bar Foundation has awarded emergency grants for \$170,000 with the largest going to a local bar.

Membership assignments:

Everyone accepted assignments given by Tom. There is a grace period until end of November and then access to the website is cut-off. We talked about a follow-up mailing to those who have not responded. It would just be a short re-write of the e-mail version that was sent to everyone earlier.

Vancouver – more updates:

Leslie and Andrea will coordinate a Thursday night dinner and Pam supplied some Vancouver restaurant options. Karen and Jim will coordinate any scholarships for Vancouver. The idea was discussed about possible discounts for bars that sent 3 or 4 people we have no mechanism through the online registration to accomplish this.

Sponsorships:

Due to Vancouver's location no major effort was made to attract sponsors since NCBF's small size puts us at a disadvantage. Tom did pursue one option after speaking with the Abila people in NYC. We will follow-up with Community Brands (the new parent company of Abila). The best option is an in-kind sponsorship of YM (Your Membership) which is the content management system used by NABE and NCBP and if NCBF used YM as well it would be a helpful move for DBS staff. This will be pursued by Nikki and Leslie.

Leslie will send a thank you letter to Lexis-Nexis for their on-going annual support.

Awards:

The deadline for the NCBF Award for Excellence Award is November 29.

Newsletter:

NCBF 1.2.3 will highlight new Board members, Resource Library, local bars and will highlight Texas Bar Foundation's response to Hurricane Harvey.

Bar Foundation Manual:

This resource is in need of updating. The thought was to change the format and put it in the Resource Library as a total document and then available by chapter/topic.

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By-laws update:

Leslie noted that our by-laws need reviewing and Jim Huggler volunteered to get that process started.

The two half-day meetings adjourned at 11:40 am and Leslie wished everyone safe travels back to their homes.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas M. Hull
NCBF Board Secretary