

Minutes of the Marquette County Bar Association Meeting
Wednesday, July 15, 2015
Jasper Ridge, Ishpeming

Attendees: Danielle Faccio, Erica Roell, Roger Zappa, Hon. Jennifer Mazzuchi, Brandon Evans, Nels Christopherson, Hon. Cheryl Hill, Priscilla Burnham, Brian Sheridan, Sean Fosmire, Mary Lou Strisar, Bruce Houghton, Robbie Powelson, John E. Yonkers III, Angela Hentkowski

1. Call to Order. Meeting was called to order at approximately 12:05pm by Erica Roell, President.
2. Addition to Agenda.
 - a. *Policy on deceased judges and members*
 - b. *Letter received from incarcerated individual.*
3. Old Minutes. Bruce Houghton moved to approve the meeting minutes from the May 20, 2015, meeting. Unanimously approved.
4. Communications.
 - a. Past-president Dominic Andriachhi received letter of complaint from incarcerated individual complaining against Kevin Branson. The letter was responded to and the individual was informed that the MCBA does not handle these types of complaints. The group noted that Mr. Branson now practices in the state of Florida.
 - b. AMCAB Room at the Inn wrote a letter to Erica Roell about establishing regular hours at the Room at the Inn location to provide free legal services to its patrons. Erica suggested incorporating this into law day and noted that MCBA members had previously volunteered their time at Room at the Inn for serving food. Judge Mazzuchi suggested that we put together a packet of basic forms/information pamphlets regarding categories that would be topics of interest to the patrons. Pri Burnham suggested that with said packet, we provide the legal services telephone number. Judge Hill suggested that we also provide direction to the use of the computers at the library. Sean Fosmire suggested that MCBA members may be able to volunteer at regularly scheduled, yet infrequent times. A committee to review this issue was formed consisting of Pri Burnham and Judge Mazzuchi, who will help figure out what forms, etc, are needed. The committee will facilitate the assignment of people to volunteer at set times. This will be a year-round commitment. Erica will contact AMCAB to find out what type of commitment they are expecting.
5. Old Business. New officers announced
6. New Business.
 - a. *Quarterly meeting dates* have been set:
September 23, 2015, Landmark Inn, immediately before Bar President Meeting
[since corrected to September 30, 2015]
January 13, 2015, Vierling
April 13, 2015, Vierling
The annual party will be in May.

A review of the 2015 annual party indicated that too much food was ordered and that the space of the Casa was awkward for our group. However, once again Janssen House and the Women's Center were thankful for our food donation.

- b. *Speaker Mark Armitage* of the State Bar Discipline Board will speak on August 20. Tom Cassleman's office will be setting up and facilitating this speaker. The idea of holding the presentation at the Hampton Inn at a cost of \$150 was discussed and rejected. The meeting will be at noon in one of the Marquette County Courtrooms. Both Judge Hill and Mazzuchi offered their courtrooms. MCBA has been asked to pay for his room and expenses of getting hear. Judge Hill was not in favor of paying those types of costs. Robbie Powelson expressed his opinion that our bar dues to the State of Michigan should cover these costs. Tom Casselman has agreed to contribute \$100 to the cost of getting Mr. Armitage here. Sean Fosmire moved to contribute \$100 on behalf of MCBA, Pri Burnham seconded. All approved except Robbie Powelson, motion passed.
- c. *Volunteer activities*. The question was raised as to whether we wanted to volunteer more time at Room at the Inn. Pri Burnham suggested that we could volunteer more time with teachers in the local classrooms, either giving presentations or helping with mock trials. Teacher Fred Cole of Michigamme always appreciates having speakers. The volunteer committee will look into this.
- d. *Social networking*. The idea of a late summer/ early fall picnic with pedal pub was discussed. The idea of comedy night at Ore Dock or Pasqualis was also discussed. The group agreed that week nights are better than weekends. Danielle Faccio and Angela Hentkowski will look into this further.
- e. *Chat with the Bar*. The group will try to host these once per month. The Social Committee, consisting of Danielle and Angela, will work on this as well.
- f. *Law Day*. Jeremy Pickens and Brian Bloch are still interested in facilitating this.
- g. *Webpage*. Sean Fosmire will get a group together to work on this and Pri Burnham will join him. They will attempt to recruit Dominic Andriacchi, Jr., who was not present at the meeting.
- h. *Policy on deceased members and judges*. The version 2 document presented by Jim Steward is the clearest version. Bruce Houghton moved to approve. Erica Roell noted that Section 1 "Ceremonies or Portraits" gives the president the authority to engage services, but the costs must be approved by the members and there must be a report of expenditures. It was suggested that perhaps there should be a distinction between deceased judges and living judges. Pri Burnham suggested that consent of members be obtained by email. Erica will see if consent by email is allowed by MCBA bylaws. Judge Mazzuchi moved to approve the version 2 document and Pri Burnham seconded. Approved.

7. Judicial Report.

- a. Hon. Jennifer Mazzuchi reported that there is a lot of uncertainty right now in the court system. Judge Girard will retire as of next week and a letter to the Governor regarding his retirement was sent over a month ago, but no response has been received. It is possible that the Governor will not appoint another judge at this time; we just don't know for sure. Judge Gotham in Gogebic/Ontonagon County is also retiring. Judge Solka is fairly certain he will not run again, and therefore

his term will be up at the end of next year, and he will be the last judge in that position. The judges are working on a plan for distributing work between themselves. All judges are cross-assigned

- b. Hon. Cheryl Hill reported that a grant in the amount of \$253,699 was received by Marquette County to institute a program for probation officer training. The first year of the program will be training, the second is implementation, and the third is review. Program will begin in January.
8. Adjournment. Motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 12:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Danielle DeRosia Faccio, Secretary