

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SECTION  
MEETING MINUTES  
STATE BAR BUILDING, LANSING**

**JANUARY 17, 2009**

**PRESENT:** S. Gobbo; C. Green; R. Johnson; B. Levine; D. Manville; M. Marutiak; D. Moffitt; K. Schaefer; R. Stapleton.

**ABSENT W/EXCUSE:** R. Beracy; S. Girard; N. Holbrook; P. Streeter; K. Thom; A. Watts.

**ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE:** J. O'Donnell; M. VanDusen.

Introductions of Council members were held, with a welcome back being extended to David Moffitt

The meeting was opened at 10:00 a.m. At 10:20 a.m. the Chair announced a quorum was present upon the arrival of K. Schaefer.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- **Financial Report: S. Gobbo**

The section currently has \$2,794.21, on hand. The Section has received \$2,550.00 in dues for the new year and has expenses totaling \$194.69.

D. Moffitt moved to receive the Treasurer's Report. The Council voted to receive the Treasurer's Report.

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by D. Moffitt, seconded, and the agenda was approved by the Council.

The meeting minutes from 10/18/08, were reviewed. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by D. Moffitt, seconded, and the agenda was approved by the Council.

The Informational Notes from 11/15/08 were reviewed. A motion to receive the informational meeting minutes was made by D. Moffitt, seconded, and adopted by the Council.

M. Marutiak reported that Section membership is currently 126, down from 144 last year, but that other memberships may be added before the end of February.

- **Discussion/Election for Open Council Seat:**

S. Gobbo made a motion to elect Ms. Avar Laws-Wright to the open Council position expiring at the end of the year. Seconded by D. Moffitt. All voting members approved the appointment with raised hands, none opposed.

- **2009 “School for Legislators”:**

A copy of the finished PowerPoint for 2/10/09 was presented to the Council for review. R. Stapleton offered to get an update of what vocational programming is currently offered to offenders. Discussion ensued at his suggestion that the presentation’s focus be changed to the policy positions advocated by the Section, and that fewer slides be included due to the short time frame of the class. It was agreed that there were many slides, but most were just informational and would not be discussed during the presentation. More information on the Blueprint designed by the Section and its policy positions will also be added to the presentation. All Council members are invited and encourage to attend on 2/10.

- **“Balancing Our Priorities” Symposium:** D. Manville

Interest was expressed by the Wayne and Macomb County Bar Associations for a symposium similar to the one the Section sponsored in the Lansing area last year. No response had yet been received from Oakland County. Discussion was held on the questions of funding, training credits and the best time to hold the event. Consensus was to hold the event in late May, and to charge attendees \$25 to \$50. The Bar Associations cannot contribute funding but they are willing to help with notifications and advertisement. An e-mail will be sent to Council members for volunteers to coordinate the event.

- **Ad Hoc Committee on Juvenile Issues:**

The Criminal Law and Children’s Law sections appointed members to this committee. M. Marutiak made a motion to appoint Cassandra (“Cass”) Green from our Council, seconded by R. Johnson, and approved unanimously. The ad hoc committee will meet and report to their respective Councils on recommendations for policy positions relating to juvenile law.

- **Discussion of TIS Policy Recommendation/Statement:** B. Levine

The goal of the discussion was to see if there was a consensus on points to be included in the draft of a public policy position. The agreed upon points are as follows:

- A. Some system of earned credits is needed.
- B. The system should be progressive.
- C. The system should involve re-establishing community placements.
- D. The system should be retroactive.
- E. The system needs to be transparent to the public.

B. Levine will work on a draft public policy statement for the Council's further discussion and vote.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

- **Newsletter** : M. Marutiak

A.Watts will coordinate another newsletter. Suggestions were made to include articles about the soon-to-be-released report from the Council of State Governments, our Section's "School for Legislators", and the 2009 "Balancing Our Priorities" symposium. Please e-mail Adrian at [attyacw@aol.com](mailto:attyacw@aol.com), or fax to her at 248-399-8530.

- **June Leadership Conference**:

M. Marutiak asked the Council to approve an expenditure of up to \$500 for P. Streeter (Chair-Elect) to attend the State Bar's Leadership Conference in June. Motion to approve by D. Manville, seconded by R. Johnson. Motion approved.

- **Annual Meeting Reservation**:

The Bar's annual meeting is scheduled for 9/17-9/18/09, in Dearborn. After discussion it was decided that Chair Marutiak will reserve a room for our Section's program on Friday, 9/18, 10:00 a.m., with an option to cancel if the Council decides to forgo a program. A room will not be reserved for our Section's business meeting to avoid the added cost. The business meeting will be held in a common area of the hotel or as otherwise arranged. Details to be announced later.

**NEXT MEETING:** February 21, 2009, at 10:00 am, at the State Bar Building.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SECTION**

Michael J. Marutiak, Chair