

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN  
PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SECTION  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 16, 2008

**PRESENT:** M. Barnhart; S. Girard; S. Gobbo; Cassandra Green; N. Holbrook; R. Johnson; B. Levine; R. Stapleton; P. Streeter; K. Thom.

**ABSENT W/EXCUSE:** R. Beracy; M. Marutiak; Joseph Niskar; K. Schaefer; J. O'Donnell; A. Watts.

**ABSENT W/NOTICE:** M. VanDusen

**ABSENT W/O NOTICE:** None.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. with a welcome and introduction.

The meeting minutes from 1/19/08, were reviewed. A correction was made to page 1, under Brief Reports, to note that "...B. Levine stated that a CAPPS **volunteer** will pursue available information further state by state..." Motion to accept the meeting minutes was made by M. Barnhart, seconded by B. Levine. The minutes were approved.

The meeting agenda was reviewed. B. Levine asked that the Foster-Bey lifer case be discussed in the meeting. S. Gobbo noted several errors in the membership roster in both names and term expirations. He will make the necessary corrections and contact Chair Marutiak to discuss the changes. The agenda was approved with the noted additions.

#### **DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- Financial Report: S. Gobbo

The section currently has \$3,953.85, available. Funds already slated for the year are for the full breakfast (\$132.50, a month), and for the newsletter. The money for the gavel received in error has been credited back to the account.

A motion to receive the report was made by S. Girard, seconded by M. Barnhart, and carried.

- "Summit Task Force" Status Report: B. Levine

All panelists have accepted the invitation to participate in the conference Friday, May 2, 2008, at the L.C.C. West campus in Lansing. Terry Jungel will not be able to appear, however will send a substitute person in his stead. Dennis Schrantz has asked for an alternate topic title, so that change will be made to the program.

B. Levine is expecting 150 participants. Chair Marutiak has asked that L.C.C. waive the \$300 room fee. A written invitation to participants has been drafted. Some changes were discussed and a final draft approved. Suggestion was made by R. Stapleton that an e-mail blast be sent as well, to reach a larger group of interested parties. P. Streeter volunteered to work on the e-mail portion of the project, as well as opening a "Pay-Pal" account for reservation payments. Next week the mailing list will be finalized and hard-copies of the invitations sent.

Finally, a motion was made by S. Girard to lower the cost of the summit to \$25/per person, seconded by N. Holbrook. Motion carried. A second motion was made by S. Girard to allocate \$500 of our section funds to go toward the cost of the conference, seconded by K. Thom. Motion approved.

Further suggestions for who should be invited to the conference, potential strategies, and ideas for a brochure are still welcome. E-mail B. Levine at [blevine@CAPPS-mi.org](mailto:blevine@CAPPS-mi.org), or [blevine@cablespeed.com](mailto:blevine@cablespeed.com).

- Brief Reports—"Merit Credit Comparisons":

The goal of this discussion was to determine the effectiveness of merit credits/disciplinary credits in reducing prison populations, and whether the credits affect inmate behavior. Once the goal was discussed, it was decided to table this discussion until the March meeting until all those researching the issue could be present.

- Nominations for Vacant Council Position

Brief discussion was held reference the two applicants for the vacant council seat. K. Thom made a motion for D. Moffitt to fill the seat, seconded by S. Girard. All section members were in favor of the nomination. D. Moffitt's term is an interim position until 10/08, and the term will expire in 2010.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

- B. Levine brought in some updated information on the Foster-Bey lifer case. The D.O.C. has decided to appeal the court decision.
- P. Streeter mentioned that A. Watts reported progress is underway for the Newsletter. The technical assistant has scanned all of the material and is ready to put it into the newspaper template. It will probably be ready to mail out the first week of March. If anyone has any additional information they would like to include in this publication, please e-mail A. Watts at [attyacw@aol.com](mailto:attyacw@aol.com), or fax to her at 248-399-8530.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 15, 2008, 10:00 a.m., at the State Bar.

S. Gobbo made a motion to adjourn, seconded by R. Stapleton.  
Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.