

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

**MAY 17, 2008**

**PRESENT:** S. Girard; S. Gobbo; C. Green; N. Holbrook; R. Johnson; B. Levine; M. Marutiak; K. Schaefer; R. Stapleton; P Streeter; M. VanDusen; A. Watts.

**ABSENT W/EXCUSE:** M. Barnhart; R. Beracy; J. O'Donnell; K. Thom; D. Moffitt

**ABSENT WITHOUT NOTICE:** Joseph Niskar.

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. with a welcome and introduction.

The meeting minutes from 3/15/08, and the meeting agenda for 5/17/08 were reviewed.

Motions to approve the meeting minutes and adopt the agenda were made by S. Gobbo. Both were seconded and then approved by the Council.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- **Financial Report: S. Gobbo**

The section currently has \$4,863.91, available. Expenses for the recent conference and upcoming newsletter have not yet been factored into this amount. A preliminary balance sheet with detailed expenses and income from the conference was distributed.

A surplus amount is still expected to carry into the 2008-2009 year once all transactions are entered.

R. Johnson made a motion to have the Section cover any shortfall from the conference, up to \$400, that may arise after all calculations are made. Seconded by K. Schaefer. All were in favor. The Council voted to receive the Treasurer's Report.

- **Newsletter: A. Watts**

The update could not be presented today. It will be e-mailed to the Council members as soon as possible. The next issue is expected to be released in June. Articles on Foster-Bey, and the conference will be included, as will a notification on Council vacancies and elections. Other article suggestions are still welcome. Please e-mail A. Watts at [attyacw@aol.com](mailto:attyacw@aol.com), or fax to her at 248-399-8530.

- **“Balancing Our Priorities” Summit**

There was a good deal of positive feedback from both section members and conference attendees. Positive responses referenced the panel discussions and the handout materials as thorough and well done. Suggestions for improvement included reserving more time for further dialogue among the presenters and between the presenters and the attendees. It was recommended that evaluation forms be distributed to participants at future conferences.

P. Streeter has already entered some of the summit materials onto the “Balancing Our Priorities” website. All materials will be entered on our Section website by links as well.

Interest was expressed that a similar Summit be held in the Wayne County area this fall. Discussion included questions of funding, training credits and the best time to hold the event. Further information and discussion will be necessary before the Council commits to a repeat of the conference.

Appreciation was extended to Sandra Girard, Barb Levine and Michelle VanDusen for all their time and hard work in coordinating and organizing the event.

- **Brief Reports—“Merit Credit Comparisons”:**

B. Levine distributed some information on “Sentence Reduction Credits and Time Served Requirements in Selected States.” She stated that Michigan is “way” out of sync when compared with other states. S. Gobbo made a motion that this issue be tabled until the fall for possible Council action.

Chair Marutiak will carry this issue forward to the fall when the new section convenes.

- **Annual Bar Association Meeting**

September 19, 2008, the annual meeting will be held in Dearborn. Our section will partner with the Criminal Law Section. Designated members from each section will meet over the summer to develop a program. The designated members from our section are M. Marutiak and P. Streeter. The members from the Criminal Law section are Levy, B. Levine, Malkin, and Teall.

Several program suggestions were offered, including the development of a unified Prosecutor’s system, the merit credit issue, truth in sentencing, innovations in sentencing, sentencing issues not covered by the sentencing guidelines, and specialized courts.

The Council agreed to suggest the topic of “specialized courts” to the joint program committee.

- **Council Elections**

Our Section will have seven (7) attorney positions and one (1) associate position up for election at the Annual Meeting. The positions are presently occupied by attorneys: P. Streeter, M. Barnhart, C. Green, M. Marutiak, D. Moffitt, J. Niskar, and A. Watts, and associate member R. Johnson.

Volunteers were requested for an election Qualifications Committee, pursuant to the bylaws. C. Green, R. Johnson, P. Streeter and M. Marutiak were appointed by the Chair and will communicate during the summer.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

- Chair Marutiak initiated a brief discussion as to whether Council meetings should be moved on occasion to another venue to better accommodate those members who travel from outside the greater Lansing area. Mileage reimbursement was also discussed as an option, though the aspect of travel time seems to be the inconvenience. Teleconferencing was also discussed. More discussion of this issue will be held in the fall.

**NEXT MEETING:** September 19, 2008, at the Annual Meeting in Dearborn.

- S. Gobbo made a motion to adjourn. Second received.. The Council adjourned until the annual meeting in September. No June meeting will be held.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

**PRISONS AND CORRECTIONS SECTION**

Michael J. Marutiak, Chair