

NABE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Section Meeting

Thursday, February 7, 2008, 8-9 a.m.

Hyatt Regency Century Plaza

Los Angeles, CA

Members Present

Chair Mark Mathewson, Illinois State Bar Association

Chair-elect Francine Walker, The Florida Bar

Brad Carr, Alabama Bar Association

Jenna Grubb, Toledo Bar Association

Kelley Jones King, State Bar of Texas

Carol Manning, Oklahoma Bar Association

Bonnie Sashin, Boston Bar Association

Mark Tarasiewicz, Philadelphia Bar Association

Fred Parker, North Carolina Board of Law Examiners

Pat Giallanza, State Bar of Arizona

Ev Sullivan, Lancaster Bar Association

Elizabeth Derrico, American Bar Association

Debbie Weixl, American Bar Association

Cynthia Kuhn, District of Columbia Bar

Marilyn Cavicchia, American Bar Association

Holly Wilkerson, State Bar of Texas

Yvonne McGhee, Fairfax Bar Association

Cara Mavis, State Bar of Wisconsin

Jan Wood, State Bar of Wisconsin

Barry Kolar, Tennessee Bar Association

Carrie Witt, New Haven County Bar Association

Julie Borths, Cincinnati Bar Association

Marian Miller, Beverly Hills Bar Association

Colleen Evans, Ohio State Bar Association

Call to Order

Introductions – The chair called the meeting to order and all present introduced themselves.

Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes of October 13, 2007, was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – The section's profit/loss statement for June 1, 2007 through January 30, 2008 showed that the 2007 workshop netted a profit of just over \$6,000 and the section reserve balance as of this period is \$16,294.

Chair's Report - Mr. Mathewson: (1) Reported that the executive council agreed to move Kevin Ryan from the position of treasurer to secretary after Rene Eichen's resignation from the Kansas Bar. The secretary position will remain vacant until all

officers and council members are filled in the next fiscal year. (2) Announced that the Clark County, NV, Bar offered to host the 2009 workshop in Las Vegas. (3) Thanked Duane Stanley for representing the section at the First timers session. (4) Announced that Dan Cirucci will chair the Richter Awards Committee and Chris Centagorda will chair the Charles Award committee.

Committee Reports

Membership – Ms. Grubb reported that the membership total for 07-08 of 255 is an increase of 14% since 2004. She conducted a brief analysis of the current section members and said that 51% are with state bars, 42% are with local bars and 6% are with ABA and other federation bars. Of the 255 members, approximately 165 (65%) are involved in more traditional “communications work” and 60 are executive directors.

Luminary Awards – Chair Barry Kolar, Tennessee State Bar Association said that each year, the Luminary Awards Committee is seeing more e-newsletters entered in the publications category creating difficulties in the judging process. His committee recommended that a new category for e-newsletters be created and the executive council concurred. Mr. Kolar, vice-chair Kevin Priestner, State Bar of Texas, and members of the committee will develop the criteria. Thomson West has agreed to sponsor the awards and luncheon for this year.

Web Site – Mr. Mathewson said that a committee has been formed to work on Web content for the section’s page with Veronica Cordova, State Bar of New Mexico, serving as chair and Jen Moreira, State Bar of Arizona, Ms. Evans, Brad Comer, The Chicago Bar Association, and Steve Valdez, Louisville Bar Association, serving as committee members.

Newsletter – Mr. Mathewson said that three section members are now the editorial team for “Communicators Talk”: Alexa Giacomini, Illinois State Bar Association, is the assignment editor; Jeanne Barker, Idaho State Bar Association, is copy editor and Sarah Coole, State Bar of Georgia, is handling layout and design.

Educational Programming – Ms. Kuhn thanked the section members who are presenting at this meeting. She will welcome programming ideas from section members for future NABE meetings as she continues her term on the NABE Program Committee. She said that Mr. Stanley and Ms. Sashin are putting together a session on social networking for the next meeting.

Sponsorship – Mr. Taraciewicz, on behalf of Adrienne Cornwall, Philadelphia Bar Association, outlined the committee’s goals for 2008. The committee has established a sponsorship goal of \$25,000 for this year’s workshop. New levels and pricing are being developed.

Workshop 2007 Report – Mr. Tarasiewicz said the 2007 workshop was a programming and financial success.

Workshop 2008 – Ms. King said plans are well underway for the October 21-25 workshop in Austin. Scholarships will again be granted; the recipients will be notified in September.

AAL Partnership Opportunities – On behalf of Joyce Hastings, State Bar of Wisconsin, Mr. Mathewson distributed information on potential partnerships between bar associations and the AALL.

Division for Bar Services – Ms. Derrico discussed the communications programming for the upcoming Bar Leaders Institute as a strong component. She reviewed the session topics. She also said that there has been a great response to Joanne O'Reilly's gathering of responses to listserv-posed questions and then distributing them in a single document. She suggested that the DBS Bar Activities Inventory is also a good source to learn what other bars are doing.

Adjourn – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.