

NABE Communications Section
Business Meeting
Thursday, February 9, 2006
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, IL

Present

Susan Andres, Alabama State Bar	Jin Kim, Guest, Center for Civic Ed, CA
Carol Manning, Oklahoma Bar Association	Betty Braden, State Bar of Wisconsin
Emily Eastin, Columbus Bar	Mary Douglass, Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit, LA
Francine Walker, The Florida Bar	Kevin Ryan, Vermont Bar Association
Duane Stanley, Hennepin County Bar Association	Matt Silverman, State Bar of Arizona
Mark Tarasiewicz, Philadelphia Bar Association	Cynthia Kuhn, D.C. Bar
Beth Huffman, Philadelphia Bar Association	Kelly Jones King, State Bar of Texas
Jan Wood, State Bar of Wisconsin	Debbie Weixl, American Bar Association
Joyce Hastings, State Bar of Wisconsin	Mabel McKinney-Browning, American Bar Association
Yvonne McGhee, Fairfax Bar Association	Michael Ward, American Bar Association
Natale Fuller, Guest, Center for Civic Ed, CA	Elizabeth Derrico, American Bar Association
	Mark Mathewson, Illinois State Bar Association

Chair Duane Stanley called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone, especially new members, and asked those present to introduce themselves.

Minutes – Kevin Ryan moved (second by Susan Andres) to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2005 with the following correction: Paul Nickell, not Pamela Labbe, served on the Bylaws Committee.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Francine Walker said we have approximately \$7,000 in reserve.

Chair's Report –Chair Stanley reported that NABE President Tom Edmonds has advised us to let the NABE Board know when expenditures exceed the budgeted amount, as they did for the Orlando Workshop. Duane said it was a pleasure to lead such a strong, hard-working section.

Luminary Awards – Duane said that an announcement about the 2006 competition will out soon, and noted that Ken Brown is chair of the Luminary Awards committee. Duane reported that West representative Gretchen Desutter told him Thomson West will continue to sponsor the program but would seek as-yet-unspecified changes to accommodate its needs.

Charles, Richter Awards – Duane said he expected the immediate past recipients of these awards to chair the respective committees, as is typically the case.

Educational Programming Committee – Yvonne McGee highlighted the NABE Communications Section programs at the workshop and put out a call for help on several upcoming projects.

Membership Committee – Kevin Ryan reported we have 233 members and continue to be the largest NABE section. He encouraged everyone to spread the new membership brochure around. He said that one of his committee's goals was to administer a "buddy" system for new section members at meetings other than the section workshop. Another goal is to find out who doesn't go to the workshop and why and determine how we can best serve those members.

Newsletter Committee – Duane reported that *Communicators Talk* editor Rene Eichem is doing a great job but needs copy. He reminded the assembled of the next copy deadline.

Scholarship Committee – Committee Chair Susan Andres said that two scholarships are typically awarded annually to people who need financial help to attend the annual section workshop. Last year, however, we got a record number of requests, so we waived the registration fee for an additional two.

Nominating Committee – Committee Chair Susan Andres reported that the call for nominations for executive council and officer positions would go out soon. Susan urged the assembled to consider serving in section leadership. She reported that recent retiree Dan Cirucci of Philadelphia was made an honorary NABE and Communications Section member by action of the NABE Board. Duane added that Emily Eastin and Rene Eichem are finishing their terms.

Strategic Planning Committee – Committee Chair Carol Manning reported that the committee was gathering information upon which to base a strategic plan. She said committee members will review committee and officer protocols in light of strategic plan with the goal of developing a master timeline for section activities to ensure continuity and help incoming officers and committee chairs know what they're supposed to do when.

Web Site Committee – Duane reported that David Simms is chair and is working with the NABE Web Site Committee as well. A redesigned NABE Web site will debut soon, and the communication section pages will be redesigned as part of that.

Workshop 2007 – Workshop chairs Mark Tarasiewicz and Beth Huffman of the Philadelphia Bar Association reported that the tentative dates for the Philly workshop will be October 2–6, 2007. The theme: "Communication is Electric," in honor of Benjamin Franklin.

Workshop 2006 – Duane reported that planning for the Albuquerque workshop is well underway. One of the events is the grand balloon ascension on Wednesday morning, he said, so be sure to plan for that (i.e., you might want to come in on Tuesday).

New Business

Matt Silverman reported on ABA President Mike Greco's visit to Arizona and noted that the ABA worked cooperatively with the State Bar of Arizona to meet with editorial boards. Florida and the ABA did the same, Francine Walker said.

DBS Report – Debbie Weixl said the ABA wants to be a media-relations resource for local and state bars. Mabel McKinney-Browning reported that the ABA Commission on Civic Education is working on 1) public policy in civic ed (e.g., including more civic ed requirements as part of the No Child Left Behind Act), 2) drafting a civic ed message for bars to use, and 3) creating opportunities for the legislative branch and judiciary to work together. She said Law Day materials are ready and would be available before the end of the ABA Midyear Meeting meeting. Elizabeth Derrico invited the assembled to stop by the DBS Publications display. She noted that *Bar Leader* is now a benefit of NABE membership.

The meeting was adjourned.
Mark Mathewson, Secretary