

**HARFORD COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES**

February 1, 2017

The Meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm. Forty-Seven (47) members were counted as present.

Tony DiPaula announced the passing of retired Judge Harry O'Neill, former member of the Association. Members participated in a moment of silence. A service is being planned for May.

The Minutes from the September 7, 2016 General Meeting which had been distributed via email were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** - Donna Beard reported on financial status. HCBA Money Market account currently contains \$10, 200.00, checking \$ 13,699.00 which is up from \$5,800 last year due to recovering funds from website expenses. Sponsorships have brought in approximately \$3,000.00 and dues revenue has increased from \$13,000 to \$18,500. The CLE Committee has begun to charge non-members \$10.00 to attend programs. There has been \$720 in donations to the Bar Foundation and Harford Family House. The President added that there will be expenses coming up including more CLEs, the Civics & Law Academy, the New Admittee Ceremony, and Law Day.

**President's Report** – Pres. Tony DiPaula advised the members of the change in Executive Director. Former ED, Jayne Haiber resigned as of October 31, 2016, and Genavieve Shipley became the interim ED and later was officially hired as of January 1, 2017.

It was also reported that as of the last general meeting there were 47 unpaid members which has now been reduced to 24 due to a letter that was sent out. There are now 271 members of the Bar Association.

A general letter was sent out to all members to give notice of this general meeting and other upcoming events as well as to address communication issues. Several members were not receiving the blast emails being sent out. 10 members contacted the HCBA to have their email addresses updated. It was also mentioned that the HCBA now has a closed Facebook group which members can request to join, create posts and communicate with one another.

Sponsorships have begun to grow thanks to Krystle Acevedo who is the sponsorship chair! We now have 6 annual sponsors, grown from the original 3. The committee on Judicial Nominations is in need of members and it was strongly urged for members to apply. An application is on the website. The membership committee is also expanding and is in need of more member participation.

Finally, the Pres. advised the members that we were creating a bigger Law Day event on May 1<sup>st</sup> and making it a public event. Diane Tobin, Outreach chair will more information later. Also, the Spring Gala is really happening, being co-sponsored by the Harford Chapter of the Women's Bar Association. Save the date of April 28, 2017 at MD Golf & Country Club. All are welcome!

### **Committee Reports:**

**CLE** - Judge Cooper reminded members of the Committee's Lunchtime Series that are held the second Tuesday of each month at 12 pm at 220 S. Main Street. The Committee would like attendance to grow from the current 2-15 people. Upcoming CLEs include 3/22 Evidence with Judge Murphy; 4/12 Panel of Circuit Judges and an important CLE coming up on 2/15 regarding Land Record e-filing.

**Social** - Brian Young announced the return of the lunch buffets for members to attend. They will be held usually the week after each general meeting. The next buffet will be held at Liberatore's on 2/7. Bowling with the Bar is set for 2/25, and that it was time for the Stark and Keenan dynasty to end.

**Admissions & Membership** - Chris VanRoden reported that 23 new members had applied since the last general meeting on September 7, 2016. 7 of the new members had not paid, having indicated they would pay by check but had not. Some names of unpaid members were regrettably mentioned. New member Darren Payne was present and introduced himself to the members.

**Judicial Nominations** - Michael Leaf thanked the members of the committee who were busy this past fall while he was away. The committee adopted new procedures after making recommendations to and then receiving approval from the Executive Committee. This year the committee sent out a survey via Survey Monkey of which only 102 members responded as compared to the 144-180 when paper ballots were used. Survey Monkey results were sent to the Governor and to the JNC. The JNC Committee commented back that the Survey Monkey results were not helpful, there was too much to read, the format was too confusing, and they did not like the anonymous comments. It was decided that our committee needs a system that is in line with how MSBA rates candidates. For future nominations the Committee would like to use Survey Monkey, live interviews, and recommendation letters and then issue a report categorizing candidates and state the reasoning behind the recommendations. There are currently only 8 members on the committee, which needs to increase to at least 12 and be diversified. Only 1 person had applied so far.

**Bench-Bar Liaison** - No chairs present to comment.

**Audit** - Currently no chair but Treasurer Donna Beard stated that everything has been scanned and will be emailed to Ian Fallon for review and audit.

**Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws** - Judge Hazlett reported that there are no current issues to be discussed.

**Awards** - Cami Rogers announced they are still accepting nominations for the Eammon Gordon award. It was stressed that members should try to attend the award ceremony on April 3. The Bar Foundation will be accepting nominations soon for the Beam of Light Award.

**Young Lawyers** - Brenden Hodge reported that he was actively working on a membership drive with reduced dues. One March 7 there will be a lunch for members to attend and an email will be sent out a month in advance providing details on the lunch.

**Activities and Public Outreach** - Diane Tobin reported that the committee had just met on Monday. The Mock Trial program went well, and had plenty of volunteer scorers; all are appreciated. March 31, 2017 will be the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Civics & Law Academy, this year to be held at Harford Community College. The academy is for attorneys to meet with students informally and present legal information on hot topics such as cyber law/social media. Court of Special Appeals Judge Douglas Nazarian will be the keynote speaker for this event. Again volunteers are needed for this event.

The HCBA was contacted by MSBA about participating in the state-wide Law Day and providing free advanced directives. The Bar Foundation already provides these pro-bono services at senior centers however, HCBA could have an event for the day. Plans are in the works for a noon ceremony on May 1, to close Office Street with food vendors, a high-school band and a school poster contest with displaying the posters in the courthouse. Pres. Tony has already called the Town about closing down the street and it will not be hard to accomplish.

### **Special Committees:**

**Sponsorships** - Krystle Acevedo presented that there are now 3 levels of sponsorships - Platinum, Gold, and Silver. There are now 3 new yearly sponsors, Ashley Treatment, Nationwide Insurance, and Freedom Fighters Bail Bonds. Sponsorship information is also now available on the website thanks to ED, Genavieve. It was noted that one can also just sponsor individual events or parts of an events. HCBA is currently seeking sponsors for the Spring Gala.

**Work Group (Spring Gala)** - The Spring Gala will be held on Friday April 28, 2017 at the Maryland Golf and Country Club. Sarah Gable announced that Save the Date flyers have been created and distributed, as well as placed on the website for members to print. Invitations will be coming out soon. The Gala will be open to all lawyers however there is limited space. Members can buy individual tickets or tables of tickets. The Gala will be a black tie event.

**Bar Foundation Report** - Jen Duemmel reminded the HCBA that they have started a new lawyer referral service for the 2017 year. The HCBF is currently the only referral group left. They currently receive 100 + calls per week from people who do not meet guidelines but need representation. They have 27 members so far. Jen also mentioned that they still provide Lawyer in the Lobby with new translator services (Spanish) every 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month. They also have Lawyer in the Library which is held every month at a different Harford County Library. HCBF conducts Determine Your Destiny which provides help creating POAs at community centers. They need lawyers to help with these events. May 6<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Kentucky Derby Fundraiser at 510 Johnny's. April 6<sup>th</sup> will be a Cocktail party at 111 Main to sell tickets for the Derby fundraiser. The HCBF is also seeking 2 new board members to fill vacancies. Nomination forms for the Beam of Light Award are also going out.

**Old Businesses** - none.

**New Business** – Pres. announced that HCBA is bringing back a memorial service for all members who have passed during the year. The last service was held in 1994 per Judge Carr. While it would be very difficult to note and honor all members who have passed since then, we would like to go back at least the last 3-4 years and have a service during the late Spring or Fall of each year. Family members of the deceased would be invited.

Diane Tobin reported that Tracey Delp will be leaving the State Attorney's Office. She has accepted a position as an Administrative Law Judge with the OAH. The State Attorney's Office will be very sad to see her leave.

**Adjournment** – There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at 6:07pm