

**VICTORIA BAR ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF APRIL 17, 2008**

Meeting at Fireside Grill called to order by Scott Farquhar at 5:12 pm.

Executive present:

Scott Farquhar	Sue Wishart	Michael Cooper
Andrew Petter	Charlotte Salomon	Kerry Simmons
Nisha Bathe	Jim Legh	Richard Stewart

Guests

Anne Pappas	Eugene Raponi	Neil Campbell
Susen Johnson		

1. **MINUTES:** Moved by Nisha Bathe, seconded by Charlotte Salmon that the minutes of the March 25 meeting be approved with changes as noted. CARRIED

2. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

The call ceremony on April 11 had 8 candidates, four of whom were transfers. Justice Macaulay presided and the VBA provided the usual reception afterwards. The next call ceremony is June 5

3. **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

There are 281 members. We expect a further 100 and a reminder will be sent out. The Board of the Victoria Legal Secretaries Association has changed and Michael has not been able to reach the person responsible for scholarships. Michael read proposed terms of reference for a \$250 annual award for a legal office assistant graduate with high academic standing and who has secured employment in the Capital Regional District. No member had suggestions for changes. Michael will speak to the VLSA representative regarding the terms and will bring back the terms for a formal motion at a later meeting.

4. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Present balance is \$7,481.73 with little revenue earned this month. The revenue, expenses and transfer of funds to the Benevolent Society as a result of the Battle of the Bar Bands is reflected in the Statement.

Moved by Michael Cooper, seconded by Sue Wishart that the financial statement be approved and accepted. CARRIED

5. **SOCIAL EVENTS REPORT/CALENDAR**

- (a) Spring dinner – 100 people will attend and only one judge
- (b) Battle of the Bar Bands – Eugene Raponi in place of Roxanne Helme attended to present a report and request a donation from the VBA. The event was well attended with over 300 tickets sold. Sponsorships from

Stewart Title, the Hotel Grand Pacific and others helped to reduce costs. The Vancouver band stayed at the Grand Pacific and the Nanaimo band stayed at the Strathcona at the “band rate” which was minimal. Revenue exceeded \$10,000.

In the past, the VBA has contributed a donation that covered expenses, however this year with minimal expenses, the VBA is being asked to make donation irrespective of the expenses. A discussion ensued regarding the local benefit and overall financial plan of the Benevolent Society.

Moved by Charlotte Salmon, seconded by Richard Stewart that the VBA contribute \$1500 to the CBA Benevolent Society. CARRIED

Eugene expressed thanks on behalf of the local organizers of the Battle of the Bar Band and the CBA Benevolent Society.

- (c) Lawyer/CA Golf Tournament – no report. We would like to confirm the date please.....
- (d) Deep Cove Chalet Dinner – no report. The date is June 19.
- (e) Softball and Lawyers Golf Tournament – no report. We would like confirmation of dates please.....

6. **WEBSITE**

Nisha advised that there are no minutes from 2007 on the website because Brooke hasn't sent the revised minutes to her yet.

7. **COURT LIAISON**

- (a) No report regarding the court liaison committees.
- (b) Court lockers – Kerry reported that she is still trying to locate a list for the male barrister locker assignments. She advised that she has instructed Emerson's locks to repair three locks in the barristers rooms and she has made recent locker assignments in the women's locker room. Charlotte requested a locker.
- (c) Charlotte advised that the chairs were fixed at no cost. The couch may be beyond repair but she will get Furniture Medic in for an assessment and authorize them to make a repair if it is less than \$200 and to seek further instructions if it is over that amount.

8. **COURT BOXES**

Kay sent a report to Scott advising of a courtbox rental to a new firm, and the challenge of getting keys from those who give up their boxes. She has spoken with Nisha about updating the website list and she inquired how the large list above the courtboxes is updated.

Charlotte said that we update that list through a cut and paste method. She has an electronic document she will send to Kay from the last update she did.

9. LAW DAY

Law Day is this Saturday. The Three Little Pigs make their wills. Harry Potter is on trial at 11 and 1. Tell your staff, clients, family. There are lots of displays and information sessions. There was a good article in the paper on April 17 promoting Law Day and featuring two provincial court judges.

The VBA and CBA will jointly present awards to the first and second place teams in the Mock Trial Competition which will be running all day between high school teams from throughout the province.

10. NEWSLETTER

Jim Legh invited contributions to the Praeipce to be distributed May 1. Deadline is April 28. Eugene will have a Battle of the Bar Bands report. Scott will send something about the new call candidates. UVic will send a report.

11. BENCHER'S REPORT (Richard Stewart)

The year end financial statements show an unexpected surplus of over 1 million dollars as a result of increased revenues and decreased expenses. The surplus will be a factor when setting next year's fees.

The CEO has, with the staff and benchers, set key performance measures for the year providing a sound business plan.

The benchers appointed Ian Donaldson as its representative to the Federation of Law Societies for a three year term. The benchers have determined that a three year appointment of a senior or life bencher enables BC to have a greater impact that sending a new representative (such as the President) each year.

12. CBA REPORT (Sue Wishart)

Sue brought recognition pins from the CBA for individual members who have maintained their membership over the years. The pins indicate membership for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, and 35 years. She will distribute them to members this evening and give section chairs pins to recognize members in their section.

June 21 is the next Provincial Council meeting with the anticipated highlight being the election of the executive for the upcoming year.

Sue now has the Advocate prints for Presidents Waddell, McKimm and Walton and will now proceed to frame them for display in the Barristers Lounge.

13. UVIC REPORT

- (a) Homecoming Weekend is May 9/10. Details are on the faculty's website or speak with Anne Pappas this evening.

- (b) Neil Campbell presented the concept drawings for the library repurposing showing “before” and “after”. Below is the summary of the changes and future planning/construction schedule.

Overall

- First Nations and Indigenous People’s traditions in design and art
- More and better quality light
- Reduce paper where appropriate in favour of electronic resources
- High tech
- Lots of glass walls
- Art from the Maltwood Gallery

First Floor

- Relocate computer lab
- Lower the height of the stacks
- Include compact shelving
- Comfy seating near entrance
- Center info desk
- Walk-in, yet secured, reference area for reserve readings and \$\$ texts
- Indigenous Law Students Association room
- Three work study rooms (rather than none)

Second floor

- Compact shelving
- New classroom with modular desks and chairs
- Increased number of student desks
- Moot court room
- Office for Appeal Journal
- Increased capacity for offices for visiting judges, lawyers, scholars
- Increased grad student space
- Quiet reading room
- Four work study rooms (rather than 2)
- Videoconferencing (that can be used by CBA or CLE for seminars)

Timing

- Sign off on concept plans
- July – working drawings and tenders done
- August – start construction
- September 2009 – significant stage complete
- Spring 2010 – done
- No construction during exam periods.

Meeting was adjourned.