

**STATE BAR OF GEORGIA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
Friday, July 17, 2020/1:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Meeting**

Members Participating:

Dawn M. Jones, President; Elizabeth L. Fite, President-elect; Sally B. Akins, Treasurer; Tony DelCampo, Secretary; Bert D. Hummel, IV, YLD President; Elissa B. Haynes, YLD President-elect; William T. Davis, YLD Immediate Past President; Ivy N. Cadle; R. Javoyne Hicks; Amy V. Howell, David S. Lipscomb; Martin Valbuena, and Nicki Vaughan.

Members Absent:

Darrell L. Sutton, Immediate Past President.

Staff Participating:

Sharon Bryant, Chief Operating Officer; Sarah Coole, Director of Communications; Jeff Davis, Executive Director; Paula Frederick, General Counsel; Michelle Garner, Director of Meetings; Christine Butcher Hayes, Director of Governmental Affairs; Bill NeSmith, Deputy General Counsel; and Ron Turner, Chief Financial Officer.

Call to Order

President Dawn Jones called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Members of the Executive Committee in attendance are indicated above.

Future Meetings Schedule

Dawn reviewed the Future Meetings Schedule. The August 14 Executive Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. will be added to the schedule. Dawn reported that Wild Dunes Resort cancelled all meetings through September due to COVID-19, thereby cancelling the on-site Executive Committee extended meeting.

Executive Committee Minutes

By unanimous voice vote, the Executive Committee tabled the minutes of the May 18, June 5-6, and June 19, 2020 Executive Committee meetings to provide further revisions by the Secretary.

Members Requesting Resignation

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-208, the Executive Committee approved the following resignation requests by unanimous voice vote: Louisa Ashmead Robinson-101031, Janet Elaine Witt-772377, Terry William Smith-663620, Beverly Meyers Smit -654775, Thomas M. Cerbone-118195, Andrea Goldberg-090184, John R. Long-457237, Elizabeth Rackley-153037, Steven Silverman-646675, Robert Cauthen-117350, David Bruce Martz-475101, Eileen Renteria-001180, Mary Sullivan-691427, Laurie Gorbakkin-301953, Judy Chidester-124401, Thomas Kearns-409960, Ronnie Gabriel-281656, Andrea Guttin-168145, Stasia Ogden-550350, Matthew Youn-952406, Elizabeth Glasgow-242109, Stephanie Miller-508355, Lisa Young-004990, Devereaux McClatchey-483011, Jennifer Moscoso-422144, Karen Meadows-224375, Kathleen Fisher-261875, David Bucey-092092, Frank DeVincent-219840, Jodie English-248885, Sheryl Newberry-202350, John Stephens-679100, Robert Smiles Jr.-653648, William McKinnie -495760, Megan Fisher-185538

Members Requesting Disability Status

Pursuant to State Bar Rule 1-202, the Executive Committee approved two requests for disabled status by unanimous voice vote.

Officers Reimbursement Policy Proposed Revisions

Dawn reported one of the proposed revisions adds ABA dues as a reimbursable expense, and Ron reported that the other revisions define the actual reimbursement processes that are currently being followed. After further discussion, the Executive Committee also added expenses of a “designated guest” of an Officer as reimbursable expenses in lieu of a spouse.

By unanimous voice vote, with Dawn abstaining, the Executive Committee approved the proposed revisions to the Officers Reimbursement Policy (Exhibit A). Dawn said she will share the revised policy with the Supreme Court and it will be presented to the Board of Governors at the Fall Board meeting.

Woodrow Wilson Exhibit

Executive Director Jeff Davis reported on the history of the State Bar obtaining the Woodrow Wilson exhibit that is displayed in the State Bar’s lobby. A motion and second to remove the Woodrow Wilson exhibit in the State Bar lobby, the details of which will be handled by Jeff, General Counsel Paula Frederick, and Chief Operating Officer Sharon Bryant, and to use space for additional lobby seating to adhere to current social distancing guidelines, was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Professionalism Page

The Executive Committee reviewed the Chief Justice’s Commission on Professionalism’s upcoming professionalism page in the *Georgia Bar Journal* titled the *Necessity of Unparalleled Unity*.

President’s Report

Dawn reported she will be participating in a number of Zoom-based speaking engagements over the next several months. She routinely responds to questions and concerns from Bar members or forwards them to Bar staff to respond when appropriate. She virtually met with our Supreme Court liaisons, Justices Nels Peterson and Keith Blackwell. She has been relaying members’ experiences in courtrooms that are not requiring masks or observing social distancing to Chief Justice Harold Melton.

Dawn reported we are going to have bias training for Bar staff and she would like the Executive Committee to also participate.

Dawn reported she has been meeting with Paula, Jeff and Sharon on Tuesdays and Fridays to discuss Bar operations. She further reported that the staggered reopening has been postponed and staff have been told that until further notice the Bar offices will not be open, but for a select few who need to go in for various purposes. Staff will be given a two week notice before the office does reopen. Dawn wanted to reassure everyone that the Bar is fully functioning to meet members’ needs.

State Bar Meetings

Dawn reported she sees no reason to hold the Fall Board meeting on-site in Augusta due to social distancing guidelines and members comfort level in traveling right now. Per the hotel contract, the Bar is currently under a 35% cancellation clause, so for monetary purposes it makes sense to cancel now. She said we will work to provide all of the other meetings virtually that would have occurred on-site in conjunction with the meeting. The Executive Committee agreed with Dawn’s decision to cancel the hotel contract.

Dawn reported the August Executive Committee meeting will take the place of the September extended meeting so we will meet from 1:00-5:00 p.m. on August 14. If the business of the agenda and some of the retreat items are not finished by that time, we will meet Saturday morning, August 15, to complete the extended meeting.

Executive Director’s Report

Jeff reported we have continued to monitor the situation concerning the office reopening. The tenants are aware

of our plans and are following our policies. He further reported that GLSP Director Rick Rufolo has asked about possible rent abatement for the time that GLSP has not been able to occupy the office. As an aside, Jeff reported that we have not been charging our tenants any parking fees since the office has been closed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Sally Akins reported on the Bar's finances.

The Executive Committee received the Consolidated (Operational and Bar Center) Revenues and Expenditures Report as of May 31, 2020; Bar Center Revenues and Expenditures Report as of May 31, 2020; Income Statement YTD-Operations as of Ended May 31, 2020; Status and Use of Cash and Investment as of May 31, 2020; Board-Designated and Donor Temporarily Restricted Net Assets as of May 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contributions Paid Through May 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Contributions to GLSP Paid through May 31, 2020; Summary of Members and Voluntary Legislative Contribution Paid through May 31, 2020; Legislative Activity Report from July 1, 2019-May 31, 2020; and Clients' Security Fund Activity Report as of May 31, 2020.

Snapshot of State Bar of Georgia Finances

Chief Financial Officer Ron Turner reported that while there have been some overages for the month of May, they are very minute amounts. It is a line item budget and from a departmental standpoint, department budgets are not exceeding their bottom line budget. Due to COVID-19, costs have tended to be a little bit lower to operate from home. Thereafter, Ron reviewed some reports in the financial package.

Office of General Counsel Report

This item was tabled.

YLD Report

YLD President Bert Hummel said he would give his report at the next meeting. He did report that in fully embracing virtual settings, he has appointed an ad hoc committee, chaired by ShaMiracle Rankin, to pull and survey what other organizations are doing and will create a summary of ideas that he will share with the Executive Committee.

ACL/Legislative Report

Director of Governmental Affairs Christine Butcher Hayes reported that she received a call from State Representative Joseph Gullet who filed the remote online notary bill. If anyone has feedback concerning that legislation, please let her know so she can relay it to Representative Gullet.

Pension Plan Amendments

This item was tabled.

Provisional Membership Update

This item was tabled.

Committee Updates

Dawn announced that the job posting for the Executive Director position will happen in the next few days.

Dawn asked the Executive Committee Liaisons to bring committee updates to future Executive Committee meetings.

Old Business

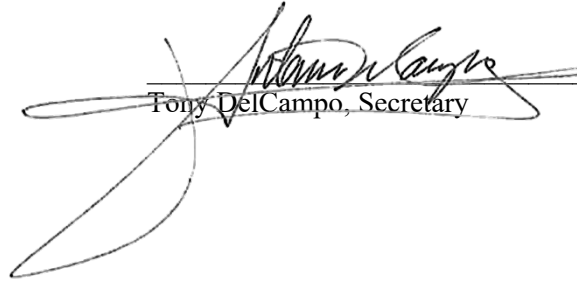
There was no old business.

New Business

There was no new business.

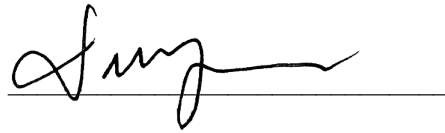
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.



Tony DeCampo, Secretary

Approved:



Dawn M. Jones, President