

## MINUTES

### Contra Costa County Bar Association Membership Meeting

March 1, 2023

In person and via Zoom

**Board Members Present:** David Erb, David Pearson, Sutter Selleck, Mike Pierson, Ericka McKenna, Dorian Peters, Patanisha Davis Pierson, Dean Christopherson, David Ratner, Marta Vanegas, Ann Battin, Ariel Lee, Jonathan Lee, Terry Leoni, Andrew Verriere

**Guests:** Ray Robinson, Trisha Mannie, Arvonne DiMarco, Carl Gustavson, Punita Bhasin, Maria Schopp, Katie Wilke

**Staff:** Jody Iorns, Executive Director; Carole Lucido, Communications Director; Drew Iorns, Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order:** David E. called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

**Membership Meeting:** After introductions, David E. explained how board members serve and their roles on committees. He gave a recap of events and accomplishments of last year. Then he reviewed CCCBA goals for 2023. David opened the floor for comments from members. Hearing none, he invited the guests to stay for the Board Meeting and closed the Membership Meeting at 5:55 pm.

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**Guests:** Ray Robinson, Arvonne DiMarco

**Staff:** Jody Iorns, Executive Director; Carole Lucido, Communications Director; Drew Iorns, Administrative Assistant

**Board Meeting Call to Order:** David E. called the Board Meeting to order at 5:56 pm

#### President's Report

Bench Bar Meeting – David E. reported:

- a) The Bench Bar Committee met with Judge Ed Weil and Kate Bieker, Court CEO.
- b) The court is interested in getting back to the past CCCBA social event with judges (usually held in October in Martinez).

- c) Court will be ready to resume the court tours for middle schoolers in October, November and December. Need one volunteer attorney, one volunteer judge for each tour.
- d) Update on E-filing: the backlog is due to fact that a clerk has to review each e-filing and the fact that debt collection companies that had not dealt with CC County Superior Court before because we did not have e-filing now are doing so. These companies in "limited civil" place hundreds of filings per day and each one takes 15-20 minutes to review. The Court has asked for help get the word out about how to use the Odyssey system. CCCBA will help publicize the court's pre-recorded "how to" videos and FAQ document.
- e) Court is facing a staffing shortage due to the workload. They asked that CCCBA members to not email the court about the status of their filing. It may take over one month for it to appear. Also, the Court has a new goal to be paperless in 12-18 months.
- f) Need for new judges – Our Court is short a couple of judges now, but we need more in the pipeline.
- g) Technology Upgrades – Court is planning upgrades to include zoom capable courtrooms with trial technology, screens for jurors and ADA compliant seating. The Richmond courthouse will get a complete overhaul. They will move the judges out one by one and each will take 4 – 6 weeks. The construction across from the court house will include a new bus stop. The Bray Building is also scheduled for upgrades.
- h) Use of the courthouse – Court has implemented a more formal process for outside groups to use different meeting rooms. The Court asks for patience during this new process.

### **Finance Report**

Michael presented the finance report. January 2023 income: \$148,375.69; Year to date income: \$187,412; Expenses show a deficit of \$36K. This deficit is likely simply due to the timing of income as projected by Jody I.

Discussion was held regarding the LRIS fees that consumers pay for referrals. Michael remembered that this was addressed before and \$35 is on the lower end of what other bar associations are charging. He will talk to LRIS committee about contacting state bar about what other county bars are charging.

There was discussion of the membership drive. Jody will share a list of non-renewing members. Each board member can call 2 or 3. Timing of the membership drive was questioned and sustaining firm program was mentioned.

### **Nominating Committee**

#### **New Board Member, Ray Robinson:**

David E. invited Ray Robinson to leave the room during the Board's consideration of his role on the board. David P. reviewed the process involved in reviewing Ray Robinson's application.

**David P./Dorian P. Seconded moved** to approve Ray Robinson as a new Board Member.

Motion passed unanimously.

David E. invited Ray back into the room. Congratulations and words of welcome were extended to Ray.

### **Governance Committee**

**Bylaws Amendment Proposal:**

*Amend the Bylaws, Article III, Section 2 to add the wording "Shall consist of no fewer than 13 and no more than 17. . ." Current wording is: ". . . shall consist of 17"*

Extensive discussion regarding this proposal occurred. The discussion focused on the meaning of the word "shall" v. "may."

**David R. moved/Pa'tanisha P. seconded** to approve proposal as presented. Initial count thought to have the motion passed. Dorian P. requested a roll call vote:

**Ayes:** D. Pearson, R. Robinson, A. Battin, D. Ratner, M. Pierson, P. Davis Pierson, A. Brownell

**Nays:** D. Peters, M. Vanegas, E. McKenna, D. Christopherson, J. Lee, D. Erb., A. Verriere

**Motion did not pass.**

**Consent Calendar:** **David P. moved/Marta V. Seconded** to approve minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Board meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm