

President Cahill called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, June 15, 2007 at the Michael Franck Building in Lansing.

Commissioners present:

Lori A. Buiteweg	Katherine A. Kakish
Kimberly M. Cahill, President	Ronald D. Keefe, President-Elect
John J. Conway	Jeffrey E. Kirkey
Margaret A. Costello	Craig H. Lubben
Bruce A. Courtade	Donald E. McGinnis, Jr.
Francine Cullari	Hon. William B. Murphy
Richard L. Cunningham	Lambro Niforos
Brian D. Einhorn	Edward H. Pappas, Vice-President
Robert K. Fergan	Eric J. Pelton
Julie I. Fershtman	Thomas C. Rombach
Kiffi Y. Ford	Kurt E. Schnelz
Robert C. Gardella	Laurin' Roberts Thomas
Edward L. Haroutunian	Charles R. Toy, Secretary
W. Anthony Jenkins, Treasurer	Gregory L. Ulrich

Commissioners Beverly Hall Burns, Elias J. Escobedo, Jr., Michael Riordan, and Scott Strattard, were absent and excused.

State Bar Staff Present:

Marge Bossenbery, Executive Coordinator
Nancy Brown, Director, Member Services and Communications
Gregory Conyers, Program Administrator, Pro Bono Initiative
Candace Crowley, Development & External Affairs Manager
Dawn Evans, Director of Professional Standards
Cliff Flood, Deputy General Counsel
James Horsch, Director, Finance and Administration
Victoria Kremski, Deputy Director of Professional Standards
Elizabeth Lyon, Public Policy Analyst
Catherine O'Connell, Assistant Professional Standards Counsel
Tracie McCarn-Dinehart, Administrative Assistant
Naseem Stecker, Manager, Media and Communications Division
Anne Vrooman, Director, Research, and Development
Janet K. Welch, Executive Director
Thomas Stratton, Intern, Executive Office

Guests Present:

Linda Rexer, Executive Director, Michigan State Bar Foundation
Lynn P. Chard, Executive Director, Institute of Continuing Legal Education

Consent Agenda

Minutes

The Board received the minutes of the May 4, 2007, Board of Commissioners meeting.

The Board received the minutes of the May 7, 2007 and June 5, 2007 Executive Committee meetings.

President's Report, Kimberly M. Cahill, President

The Board received a written report on the President's recent activities.

Executive Director's Report, Janet K. Welch, Executive Director

The Board received a written report on the Executive Director's recent activities.

Finance, W. Anthony Jenkins, Chairperson

The Board received the Financial Reports through April 2007 and the Year-end Financial Forecast.

A motion was offered, supported, and carried, to approve the consent agenda.

Strategic Planning Follow-Up

The commissioners were provided with an updated version of the strategic planning documents that showed the proposals developed at the April strategic planning retreat and their relation to the current strategic plan. Ms. Welch reviewed the process to date, and introduced staff to give short descriptions of current staff efforts related to the various proposals under consideration.

Judge Murphy asked if, consistent with the Strategic Plan, the Bar would be addressing the impending budget cuts in the judicial branch - i.e., the Court of Appeals. Ms. Welch responded that such support falls within the strategic plan, is currently underway, and would be further addressed in the Public Policy report. Judge Murphy remarked on the need for immediate advocacy in this area.

Ms. Vrooman provided an update on what has been done and what is planned in the way of research supporting the strategic plan, and identified specific targeted areas and segments of the profession for direct assessment. She also gave an update on the Law Practice Economic Survey and the survey of membership.

President Cahill focused the group on the areas of the proposed changes that are not in the current plan, emphasizing the importance of focusing on the "hearts and minds" of attorneys, and what they need.

The Board adopted each of the following as a new strategic focus within the Strategic Plan:

- Assess the need for and encourage CLE.
- Develop an inventory of good deeds to publicize and encourage the public service of lawyers
- Comprehensively assess the current status of pro bono activities, monetary contributions to access to justice, and the need for reporting requirements, and encourage and coordinate pro bono involvement and innovations.

The Board directed staff to research and propose ways to inform the public about alternative dispute resolution and to support and promote alternative dispute centers already in place.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEES

Finance - W. Anthony Jenkins, Chairperson **Financial Update**

Mr. Jenkins provided the Board with a financial update. He indicated that financial status is good, due to higher than expected investment income, and lower salaries and benefits end that the budget year is projected to end by more than 500K ahead of budget.

Mr. Jenkins reported that the subcommittee formed to review the long-term investment policies of the State Bar of Michigan (SBM) would provide the Board with a recommendation at the next meeting. Mr. Jenkins discussed the investment policy to comply with PA 20 – set of recommendations that will review with EC at its next session.

Mr. Jenkins informed the Board that the SBM has received a notice of renewal from our liability carrier, AIG.

Mr. Jenkins reported that the Finance Committee discussed the mileage reimbursement policy and will have some proposed changes to put before the Board at the July meeting.

Professional Standards – Charles R. Toy, Chairperson **Practice Management Resource Center (PMRC)**

The Board was provided with a Practice Management Resource Center (PMRC) update.

Ethics Department Update

The Board was provided with an update on the Ethics department

Lawyers and Judges Assistance Program (LJAP) Update

The Board was provided with an update on the LJAP program.

Programs and Services – Edward H. Pappas, Chairperson **2007 State Bar Award Honorees**

Mr. Pappas asked Commissioner Cullari to inform the commissioners of the recommendations of the Awards committee for the 2007 award honorees. Commissioner Cullari reported that the committee met on May 17 and that there was 100% participation. The recommendations for the 2007 SBM Award honorees are:

Roberts P. Hudson – no award in this category this year.

Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award – Hon. Donald E. Shelton and Kym L. Worthy
Champion of Justice Award – Sue Ellen Eisenberg, Hon. Amy Krause, Hon. Denise Langford Morris, and Jeffrey G. Nutt

Liberty Bell Award – Shirley Cochran, Jesse Dawkins, and Mary Ann Farris

Motion offered, supported and approved to accept the recommendations of the SBM Awards committee.

Credit Card Vendors

Motion offered, supported and approved that the current contract with National City Merchant Services be terminated, following a 90-day written notice of termination provided by General Counsel. The committee also recommends that the State Bar of Michigan enter into a contract with Midwest Transaction Group for a new program commencing in September 2007, following the 90-day termination period with National City.

Other

Ms. Brandel provided the commissioners with an update on the Bar Leadership Forum, the Upper Michigan Legal Institute, and the 50 Year Honoree Celebration.

Public Policy, Image, and Identity – Ronald D. Keefe, Chairperson

Legislation

HB 4001

Defer while waiting for comments and additional information.

HB 4449/SB 305

Defer for comments from the Negligence Section and Health Care Law.

HB 4459/SB 291

Motion offered, supported and carried to actively oppose because of mandatory sentencing and imprecise language.

HB 4498/HJR G

Committee recommends that the SBM take no position on this bill and resolution.

HB 4501

Motion offered, supported and carried to take no position and to authorize the Justice Initiatives Committee to advocate its position.

HB 4525

Motion offered, supported and carried to support in principle.

HJR F

Remove from the agenda because of Keller restrictions.

SB 141

Deferred pending results from an ongoing workgroup with Sen. Van Woerkom.

SB 476/477

Motion offered, supported, and carried to support in principle.

Court Rules

None were discussed

Justice Initiatives Report

The Board received a written report from the Committee on Justice Initiatives

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

President's Report - Kimberly M. Cahill, President

President Cahill reminded the commissioners of the rededication of the Constitutional Convention Legal Milestone at 3:00 p.m. that day, followed by the Young Lawyers Section bowling challenge.

President Cahill reported that Commissioner Riordan received the Charles Rutherford Award from the Irish American Lawyers Society

Executive Director's Report - Janet K. Welch, Executive Director

Ms. Welch indicated that she would begin to provide a written report to the Board members in the future to allow an opportunity during the Board meeting for commissioners to discuss with her any issues they might have based on the report.

Staff Update

Ms. Welch reported that Susan McMann has accepted another position and will leave the SBM on July 29.

Budget Progress Report

Ms. Welch asked Mr. Horsch to provide the commissioners with an update on the FY 2008 budget. Mr. Horsch reported that the first draft of the budget should be completed by the end of this month. The Finance and Budget Committee will review the draft and there will be a presentation to the full Board at the July meeting.

Election Update

Janet provided an update on the 2007 SBM election. She reported that there were a significantly higher number of members voting using the Internet this year.

Officer Election Process

Ms. Welch reported that Julie Fershtman, Kurt Schnelz, and Greg Ulrich submitted letters of interest for the position of State Bar Treasurer. She indicated that the required information that the candidates submitted would be sent to all commissioners for their review in advance of the July meeting.

Section Satisfaction Survey

Ms. Welch provided the commissioners with a copy of the Section Satisfaction Survey and indicated that this document provided good feedback that will be used to improve services to sections.

Representative Assembly (RA) Report – Edward L. Haroutunian, Chairperson

RA Chair Haroutunian discussed the Unsung Hero and Michael Franck awards, and other items that will be handled at the RA meeting in September

OTHER REPORTS

American Bar Association Report (ABA) – W. Anthony Jenkins, State Delegate

Mr. Jenkins reported that the ABA Rules and Calendar committee is meeting during the weekend of June 18 to review the proposals and develop the agenda that will come before the House of Delegates in August.

Young Lawyers Section Report - J. J. Conway, Chairperson

Mr. Conway provided the Board with a written report on the activities of the Young Lawyers Section.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PROFESSION

Comments or questions from Commissioners

There was none.

Comments or questions from the public

There was none.

The Board entered in to an Executive Session at 1:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The Board went into open session at 2:15 p.m. and the meeting was adjourned.