

# MEETING MINUTES

## ACA Board of Directors Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	September 18, 2020	
<b>Time:</b>	12:00 noon (central)	
<b>Location:</b>	Zoom Meeting	
<b>Attendees:</b>	Frank Neuner – President Brett Harrison – Vice-President Ashley Belleau - Secretary and Treasurer William Johnston – Immediate Past President Wes Horton Denise Seastone Kraft	Keith B. McLennan – Past-President James Williams Darrel Papillion Andrew Schpak Gavin Foggo Josh Camson Ken Young

### 1. Approval of Draft Minutes

The Board approved the Draft Minutes of the August 1, 2020 Board Meeting.

### 2. Financial Report

Ashley Belleau reported that we are in the process of adding her as an authorized signatory to the ACA Wells Fargo Account. The current balance in the ACA bank account is \$53,712.17.

Keith also reported that Lexis sent the \$2,500 sponsorship of the Austin Meeting. However, Lexis has yet to send the \$2,500 sponsorship for the August 2020 meeting.

### 3. President’s Report

President Neuner asked everyone to introduce themselves on the call since the Board had been newly constituted after the elections at the annual meeting on August 1, 2020.

President Neuner then briefly reported on the status of the new ACA website and the plan to have the website up and running shortly.

President Neuner also applauded the good work of the Scholarship Committee and its selection of the law student scholarship winner, Laura Graham. It was noted she gave a terrific presentation at the annual meeting on August 1, 2020.

## 4. Committee Reports

### *Scholarship Committee*

Wes Horton recapped the scholarship winner's presentation at the annual meeting.

- *Lowell Jacobson Scholarship*

Mr. Horton explained the Lowell Jacobson Scholarship for the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit is given every other year. He also explained that a client of a past president initially funded the Jacobson Scholarship. Last year the Jacobson Scholarship was given to a law student in the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit.

Mr. Horton advised that he will be sending out letters to the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit law school deans in January 2021 soliciting nominees for the scholarship. The committee then will review the scholarship nominee applications and select a winner in March 2021.

Ashley Belleau suggested a description of each of the scholarships be placed on the ACA website.

Denise thanked Wes Horton for arranging the scholarship winner to speak at the annual meeting in August and added that Professor Laura Graham's presentation at the annual meeting was "spell binding, thought provoking."

- *Stanley J. Cohn and James K. Dorsett III Scholarship*

There was also discussion about the scholarship in honor of past presidents, Jim Dorsett and Stanley Cohn. In years past, a \$5,000 scholarship has been awarded. Mr. Horton explained that the scholarship funds are paid out of the ACA general funds. The scholarship is rotated between 10 circuits not including the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit. Andrew Schpak suggested that Jim Dorsett and Stanley Cohn give a history of the scholarship.

### *Membership Committee*

Ken Young, a newly appointed member of the membership committee, suggested we should share value and the success stories of case referrals as a benefit of ACA membership. Mr. Young advised that any non-billable organization must give value to attorneys who are under pressure to bill, family commitments, and now COVID-19.

Bill Johnston suggested that we capture testimonials from scholarship winners and attorneys who have received value in success and referrals from their association with the ACA.

Mr. Johnston also suggested that we try to raise money from the firms for sponsorship of future meetings. Mr. Johnson graciously committed his firm to sponsor meetings in the future.

### *Sponsorship Membership Committee*

Frank Neuner appointed Bill Johnston, immediate past president, to chair the newly created sponsorship committee.

Darrel Papillion suggested asking Fast Case Sponsorship; however, there was discussion whether it would conflict with the sponsorship that we currently have with Lexis.

### *Website*

Josh Camson reported that the ACA website is being migrated over to the new ACA website over the course of the next week or so. He also advised that he is working on the membership billing part of the software which will allow members to pay their dues with a credit card option.

Mr. Camson explained option one is to use the old process and send out invoices and manually receive payment or option two, wait until November 1, 2020 to send electronic invoices with the option to pay by credit card through the website or send in a check. He advised that they were working on importing all members currently on the rolls even if they have not yet paid in order to give them one last chance to engage and remain members.

Kenny Young said we need to project a “live and kicking” “thriving” organization. Bill agreed, “let’s get our ducks in a row.”

The Board elected option two - to defer the membership dues notice being sent until the website is up and running so that the invoices can be sent to members electronically on or about November 1, 2020. the members can pay their dues electronically via the new website.

## **5. New Business**

There was no new business discussed.

The next Board meeting will be on October 21, 2020 at 12:00 pm (central) via Zoom. The Board Meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm (central).

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley L. Belleau, ACA Secretary