

Washington Young Lawyers Division (WYLD) Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting

March 19, 2011, 8:30am-12:00pm

Davenport Hotel, Spokane, WA

Present: President Kari Petrasek; President-elect Dainen Penta; Trustees Nanette Blackburn, Manish Borde, Beth Bratton, Marie Gallagher, Dan Gasperino, Robert Grant (phone) Cyrus Habib, Robin Haynes, Chris Maharry, Elizabeth McCormack, Grace O'Connor, Scott Husbands, Megan Vogel, Alma Zuniga; Law Student Trustee Tatiana David

WSBA Staff: WYLD Liaison Brian Halcomb

*****President Petrasek called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.*****

Meeting Minutes

Trustee O'Connor moved to pass the minutes from the February 17 meeting; Trustee Husbands seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

President-elect Report

- President Petrasek asked for trustees to share feedback received from county affiliates about the policy for the election of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division (ABA YLD) District 29 rep.
 - Trustees responded that no concerns had been raised, but that they felt the board had done a good faith effort to receive feedback.
 - Trustee Vogel moved to approve the policy for election of the ABA YLD district representative; Trustee Borde seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- President Petrasek recognized Trustees Gallagher and Haynes as the "Stars of the quarter" for their work with connecting their local young lawyers with the WYLD.

President-elect Report

- President-elect Penta reported on the WSBA Board of Governors Governance Committee.
 - The committee is considering whether the WSBA Treasurer should be an appointment by the President-elect or a vote of the Board.
 - Additional conversations include modifying the presidential rotation, and amending the state bar act to add an additional governor for a new Washington congressional seat.
- President-elect Penta reported that he attended the Bar Leaders Institute and found it an opportunity to make connections. He highlighted a speaker who promoted shifting from "I-centric" to "we-centric" thinking.

Trustee Reports

- Trustee Gallagher noted that she was working with the CLE Express on the March 26th seminar in Bellingham. She commented that she was finding phone meetings difficult working with committees, especially to delegate tasks.
- Trustee Maharry reported that the Public Service Committee is working on the Serving Our Seniors project and submitted an ABA subgrant proposal.
- Trustee Zuniga reported that the May 21st Yakima Pre Law Student Leadership Conference will be held at Davis High School.

- Trustee Husbands said he enjoyed attending the WSBA Leaders meeting with the leaders of other WSBA entities.
- Trustee McCormack reported that Kitsap County elected new young lawyer leadership in December; Ron Richmond is president and Trustee McCormack is chair of the pro bono committee. She spoke recently with WSBA Governor Patrick Palace about WYLD's work to represent young lawyers and to consider a strategic/business plan.
- Trustee Blackburn reported momentum with Benton Franklin county young lawyers. She is working on the hosting committee for the June Access to Justice/Bar Leaders Conference.
- Trustee Gasperino noted the Clark County young lawyers are meeting every second Tuesday of the month. He has been working as a liaison to the YMCA Mock Trial program.
- Trustee O'Connor said Thurston County young lawyers were planning monthly meetings and happy hours. She asked the BOT to review the role of the liaison to the Youth and Law Forum and the connection between the forum and WYLD.
- Trustee Habib reported that May 20th is the Statewide Diversity Conference, with a reception May 19th. A group at King County Bar Association is working on an ethnic diversity committee.
- Trustee Grant reported many new lawyers have joined Snohomish County Young Lawyers Division, and new board members were selected.
- Immediate Past President Bahner reported that she was working on a proposal for a WYLD workshop at the Bar Leaders Conference and will circulate to the Board.
- Trustee Hayne reported that Spokane Young Lawyers are working on a young lawyer referral list and their annual courts CLE.
- Trustee Vogel led the BOT in a discussion about the relationship between the Serving Our Seniors program and the Washington Will Clinic.
 - The Public Service Committee had been moving forward with the Serving our Seniors idea, and applied for a grant for the program. The Washington Will Clinic committee raised some concerns about competing resources for volunteers and funds, need for will services for seniors, as well as confusion in branding with two WYLD will clinic programs.
 - Trustee Bratton suggested that the BOT evaluate focusing on a new program rather than existing programs as well as the budget impact.
 - Trustees wondered if serving a broader population (seniors as well as first responders) might appeal to new attorneys.
 - Liaison Halcomb commented that the BOT, through Trustee Haynes, is beginning to build a relationship with the Washington Will Clinic that hasn't been there in the past. The BOT will need to work with both committees to create a longterm plan.
 - Trustee Vogel summarized the Board's conclusions that 1) the Public Service Committee should research the statewide need for wills for seniors, and if a need seems prevalent, 2) move forward with a trial run that does not conflict with location or dates of Washington Will Clinic programs. 3) The BOT will continue to evaluate how to support and structure the programs so that the result is not two competing clinics.

Member Outreach Discussion

President Petrasek asked the BOT to continue discussing the trustee's role in reaching out to members in their districts.

Trustee Habib commented that he sees the BOT building its values for each of the three focus areas and then planning events that reflect those values.

Trustee Bratton commented that she often gets asked about her trustee role, and would like to help provide connections and resources for members in her district. Trustees characterized the trustee role as an “ambassador”, connecting local organizations and members to the state level, including WSBA Committees, Sections, WYLD, New Lawyer Education, and institutional support.

President-elect Penta suggested the WYLD better coordinate messaging and promotion. Trustees discussed the importance of checking in with committee chairs, and setting up formal channels of communication during orientation.

Trustee Habib and Vogel suggested that the BOT reflect their ambassador role and values in calendaring of events, creating a plan of how to strategically connect new lawyers with opportunities.

*****President Petrsek adjourned the meeting at 12:32pm*****