

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

December 4, 2010, 12:30-5:30p.m.

Port Gardner Inn, Everett, EA

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

Absent: Law Student Trustees Tatiana David and Katelyn Gravelle

WSBA Staff: Director of Education and Outreach Mark Sideman; WYLD Liaison Brian Halcomb; Executive Director Paula Littlewood

Guest: Board of Governors Liaison Carla Lee; Seattle University School of Law Dean Mark Niles

*****President Petrasek called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.*****

Meeting Minutes

Trustee O'Connor moved to approve the October 9, 2010 meeting minutes; Trustee Zuniga seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Law School Outreach

Dean Niles said his hopes for Seattle University School of Law align well with the support WYLD can offer to students. He will look for opportunities to make connections and look for audiences to share about WYLD. The BOT discussed concerns and trends in legal education, including pressure to look at the current model of legal education and a declining number of LSAT takers. Dean Niles mentioned looking for opportunities to reduce the cost to run law school and find new income sources and noted the school's commitment to reporting honest employment numbers for students.

President Report

- President Petrasek highlighted recently presenting the 2010 WYLD awards to Lisa Schaures (Pro Bono) and Luke Thomas (Professionalism).
- President Petrasek presented a proposed policy for how Washington will select its American Bar Association District Rep (ABA DR) every four years. The ABA would like a written policy by April. Her proposal recommended WYLD posting the opening on its list serve and notifying ABA Young Lawyers Division county affiliates in Washington of the opening and requirements; the BOT would then vote to select the next representative.

The BOT discussed if the process was sufficient to notify members, and suggested rewriting to ensure that WYLD would commit to promoting the open position to all of its members.

Trustee Vogel moved to adopt the proposed policy with clarification that the WYLD will promote an opening to all members; Trustee Husbands seconded. Trustee O'Connor moved to table the policy to a task force to rewrite; Trustee McCormack seconded. Trustees discussed if the bylaws committee or

another group should review. President Petrasek and Trustee Blackburn agreed to rewrite and distribute to the BOT. Motion to table passed unanimously.

Executive Director Littlewood asked if the affiliate groups (county young lawyer divisions) have agreed to the policy. President Petrasek suggested that once the BOT had a proposed policy it would go to the affiliates for review. Trustee Zuniga questioned if the BOT should decide this policy before asking for feedback from the districts. The BOT agreed to do some work to educate affiliates about the issue and seek input before voting.

- President Petrasek reported that the November 17th Open Section Night had about 150 attendees and 20 WSBA Sections present. New/young lawyers found the interaction valuable and the sections benefited from hearing from new/young lawyers.
- President Petrasek awarded the “Star of the Quarter” to Trustees Vogel, Husbands, and Borde, and President-elect Penta for their work on the Open Section Night.

President-elect Report

- President-elect Penta described the orientation phone call with the WYLD liaisons to the WSBA section, and intends to maintain communication throughout the year.
- President-elect Penta reported on a WSBA Diversity Stakeholders Meeting, and noted that the WSBA Committee for Diversity is working to integrate WYLD programs into its work. Minority Bar Associations are looking for practical training for new/young bar leaders and may work on a joint proposal with WYLD for the Bar Leaders Conference.
- President-elect Penta announced he has been appointed to the Board of Governors Governance Committee.
 - Immediate Past President Bahner questioned the committee’s review of governor term limits. She believes if governors can run more than once it will prohibit new lawyers from applying for governor.
 - Director Sideman asked for more WYLD conversation and input around the issue, as he believes the general perspective is that if attorneys can run twice it would increase the likelihood of new lawyer participation.

Liaison Report

Liaison Halcomb again commended the work on Open Section Night, calling it a template for the type of impact and integration that is the goal for all WYLD work.

Partnership Between WYLD and the Board of Governors

President Petrasek explained that she would like to bring clarity around the WYLD’s partnership role with the Board of Governors, specifically BOG Liaison Lee. She has come to understand that the BOT does not dictate the actions of any governors, but should work together to infuse the voice of new lawyers within the WSBA.

Governor Lee described aspects of her role: to look at the entire organization when casting a vote; to liaise with the sections, divisions, and committees she is assigned to; ultimately, to represent all attorneys. She suggested that it would be helpful for all governors to hear from the WYLD, rather than only through the liaison.

Trustees sought clarification about the role, and expressed interest in more communication with the Board of Governors. Trustee Habib said he viewed a liaison as a go-between for two different bodies, even if not a delegate. Trustee Bratton affirmed the BOT's need to reach out to the BOG on issues it feels strongly about, but also asked for outreach from the BOG. Trustee Gallagher sought more communication from the BOG if there are questions or concerns about the WYLD.

Executive Director Littlewood suggested distribution of BOT and BOG agendas could improve the process, so each group understands the meeting content and can attend or comment if necessary. She stated that the BOT does not have an entitlement to specific resources or governor activity.

Trustees recognized the breadth of Governor Lee's duties, yet expressed hope for more interaction so that Governors could understand the ongoing work of the BOT and update the BOT on relevant WSBA issues. Suggestions included: working to coordinate more BOT meetings at the same location as BOG meetings, designing a schedule for the BOG liaison to be able to attend at least three meetings, inviting other Governors besides the Liaison to attend BOT meetings. Liaison Halcomb agreed to circulate the agendas.

Transition to Practice Focus Area Conversation

Trustee Bratton, Director of the Transition to Practice focus area, led a discussion on the goals and projects of the committees and programs under her area:

Moderate Means

- Executive Director Littlewood updated the BOT on the statewide moderate means program.
 - The program will launch the week of December 6th to WSBA members to recruit attorneys. Law schools will recruit through their alumni bases.
 - Seattle University School of Law will be the first school to build a client intake program with their students.
 - The program will use a percentage scale for attorney fees. Attorneys are suggested to charge a percent of their regular rate based on the client's income.
- Executive Director Littlewood and Director Sideman explained that the moderate means program is one piece of WSBA's commitment to provide training and development for new attorneys.
 - WSBA will hire a public service manager and public service trainer to build 15 credit hours of training per year for pro bono and moderate means programs.
 - The New Lawyer Education program will eventually have tracks of programs where new lawyers can design their own development.
- Trustees discussed how to reach out to members around moderate means.
 - Trustee Gallagher requested a one page handout to explain the program.
 - Trustee Habib wondered how to respond to attorneys who would like to take a case, but are worried about it being too complex. Executive Director Littlewood said she hopes experienced attorneys will provide support as a "second season of service."

Bridging the Gap

- Trustee Bratton reported that the King County Bar Association will operate Bridging the Gap on its own this year.
- Trustee Gallaher suggested the former Bridging the Gap Committee members would be useful on the WYLD CLE Committee.

Trustee Reports

- Trustee Vogel noted that the Public Service/Pro Bono committee is using a “wiki” to organize their committee’s work.
- Trustee McCormack reported that her constituent counties do not have active young lawyers divisions, and that she is trying to begin one in Kitsap County.
- Trustee Gasperino asked that the BOT decide if they would like to allocate all \$4,000 from the Mock Trial Program to the YMCA or to reserve some money for BOT travel expenses.

Trustee Gallagher moved that \$500 of the Mock Trial Program budget be reserved for BOT travel expenses; Trustee O’Connor seconded. Trustees questioned if the program would rather have volunteers or the extra money. Trustee Gasperino moved to table the motion until the next meeting to gather more information; trustee O’Connor seconded. Motion failed 6-8. Trustee Habib moved to amend the motion to include operational expenses and BOT travel, and to define that unused funds be given to the YMCA; Trustee Husbands seconded. Motion passed 13-1.

- Trustee Velloth reported that he would like to work on an on campus event, hosted by the WYLD, this year.
- Trustee Haynes reported that her constituent counties outside of Spokane are not very active.
- Immediate Past President Bahner noted that February 15th is the deadline to apply for an ABA leadership position. She is hopeful that the ABA will recognize the WYLD’s 25th anniversary at the gala dinner of the Seattle conference.
- Executive Director Littlewood explained the four strategic goals adopted by the BOG for 2011-2013:
 - 1) Enhancing a culture of service among members, including providing a menu of options for attorneys.
 - 2) Helping with the business of the practice of law.
 - 3) Helping lawyers deal with the stress of the practice of law.
 - 4) A comprehensive study of the membership related to diversity which asks, “Why are members leaving and why did they stay?”
- Trustee Borde reported attending a program at the ABA fall conference on people who found things to do with a law degree other than to practice law.
- Trustee Zuniga reported attending a program at the ABA fall conference related to developing your practice through speaking and writing.
- Immediate Past President Bahner reported attending a program at the ABA fall conference on the ramifications of the BP oil spill, as well as a plenary session with the New Mexico Supreme Court.
- President-elect Penta reported attending the ABA fall conference’s affiliate roundtable. Associations discussed funding and programmatic concerns. He received questions about the First Responder Will Clinic and implementation of the moderate means program.

*****President Petrasek adjourned the meeting at 5:30*****