

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

February 17, 2011 5:30-7:00p.m.

Conference Call

Present: President Kari Petrasek; President-elect Dainen Penta; Trustees Nanette Blackburn, Manish Borde, Beth Bratton, Marie Gallagher, Dan Gasperino, Robert Grant, Cyrus Habib, Robin Haynes, Chris Maharry, Grace O'Connor, Scott Husbands, Megan Vogel, Alma Zuniga; Board of Governors Liaison Carla Lee

Absent: Immediate Past President Julia Bahner; Trustee Elizabeth McCormack; Law Student Trustees Tatiana David, Katelyn Gravelle, and Dan Velloth

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

*****President Petrasek called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.*****

President Report

- President Petrasek reported that the Board of Governors (BOG) adopted a shift to the Uniform Bar Exam to begin the summer of 2013.
- President Petrasek reported that the BOG reviewed the proposed merger of the WSBA and WYLD Committees for Diversity (CFD) and should affirm it during their March meeting.
- President Petrasek reminded trustees to review the ABA DR (American Bar Association District Representative) policy for final action at the March BOT meeting.

President-elect Report

- President-elect Penta clarified that the WSBA CFD is an open committee and young lawyers are encouraged to participate.
- President-elect Penta reported that the WYLD liaisons to WSBA Sections are established and continue to build relationships with the sections. He pointed to the April Business Law Young Lawyers Summit and Family Law Section Skills Training Institute (April 15 and 16 in Grays Harbor) as examples of section/new lawyer programming.
 - Director Sideman added that these two programs fit under a bigger focus on New Lawyer Education. The Solo/Small Practice section is also working on a skills-training program May 6th.
- President Petrasek announced that Law Student Trustee David participated in a winning Gonzaga School of Law moot court team at the Saul Lefkowitz competition.

WYLD Strategic Planning and Outreach to Members

President Petrasek explained that this meeting and the March meeting would help WYLD to improve outreach to new lawyers and law students. The March meeting will culminate with a meeting with the Spokane YLD. She confirmed that the question of WYLD becoming a section (rather than division) is not a current proposal, but that structure of all WSBA programs is being considered. Regardless, the WYLD should “look hard at programming” and how the mission and programs fit together.

President-elect Penta added that these conversations should solidify the core values and priorities of the group. He believes that the program review process, while painful, has helped the WYLD. He looks to build strategic planning into the BOT’s regular conversation.

Liaison Halcomb suggested that if the WYLD currently connects with about 15% of members, the BOT could look at what would be a realistic goal to improve that and develop strategy to get there. As a starting point, he asked trustees to share why they become involved in the BOT:

- Trustee Zuniga hoped to network and learn, and to try a leadership position.
- Trustee Vogel enjoyed time serving in law school and thought BOT would be a fun group.
- Trustee Habib saw potential to meet other lawyers. He thought other new lawyers would be active and involved, less likely to be wrapped up in practice and family.
- Trustee Gasperino saw this as a networking opportunity and a chance to make policy decisions for new lawyers. Also, enhancing professionalism and collegiality.
- Trustee Bratton hoped to meet people, lead on the local level, and figure out how to help other young lawyers.
- Trustee Blackburn termed her motivation as “getting connected and helping other young lawyers get connected.”
- Trustee Haynes was encouraged by another local attorney to get involved.

Liaison Halcomb summarized that 1) people are inspired to participate by their colleagues and 2) there seems to be a strong desire for community/connection. He also noted how many people mentioned confusion about their trustee role, and hopes to build clarity for incoming trustees. He asked that trustees explain what would build excitement about WYLD work:

- Trustee O’Connor suggested a “handbook” of how to get young lawyers groups started in counties. She questioned how to address the variety of experiences.
- Trustee Habib suggested that food/drink would best draw in young lawyers.
- President Petrasek commented that she looked for things to benefit her professional career.

The BOT debated between a focus on compelling “marketing” (food, drink, and other hooks for events) and focus on professional and educational development. Trustees expressed that new lawyers may attend WYLD functions primarily for intrinsic benefits (to volunteer, seek advice, etc.) but many others will only respond to a relaxed atmosphere to socialize. Liaison Halcomb said that building the substance of a program was primary, while Trustee Habib suggested that a focus on getting people “in the door” could lead later to more substance. Trustee Borde summarized that the different needs may be a function of geography, where the educational aspect is met at work for some attorneys.

Trustees began to explore ways to build a pipeline from law school to local communities. Trustee O’Connor suggested that the focus areas (leadership, transition, service) are the substance of the WYLD and the BOT could have a role in expanding that into local areas. Trustee Gallagher suggested that networking will always be local, and the WYLD should focus on packaging programs to work with local young lawyers on. Director Sideman warned that finding the local commitment and resonance is the key. Trustee Haynes suggested a list of members could aid local outreach. President Petrasek closed the conversation and opined that the different geographical needs might be the starting point to continue the conversation in March.

Meeting Minutes

Trustee Bratton moved to approve the December 4, 2010 meeting minutes; Trustee Zuniga seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

*****President Petrasek adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm*****