

Minutes for SWAPLA Business Meeting
Friday, September 19, 2014
Embassy Suites, New Orleans

Members in Attendance

Gary Keith	Michelle Payne
Mel Hailey	
Jeff Robb	Lisa Buentello
Sandy Self	Ralph Carter
Jerry Polinard	Staci Rogers
Terence Cook	Frank Rohmer
Jamie Dillon	Jenny Symkens
Karen Severn	Dvivia Roberts
Anne Dutia	Carol Dochen
Ana Alvarez	Stanley Evans

Jeff Robb called meeting to order at 8:34 am. Minutes from last business meeting were distributed.

Ralph Carter moved to approve minutes. Membership voted. Approved.

Karen Severn gave overview of Caravan and a recap of the itinerary. Reminded that PLAs can go advise at Houston forum. Texas Tech wants to be a stop.

There was universal praise and recognition for Karen Severn in organizing and planning caravan.

No unfinished business

New Business

PLAs are needed to staff table at Houston Law Forum.

Gave pros and cons of Monday forum. Solicited opinions about weekend vs weekday Forum.

Frank Rohmer mentioned he prefers weekend, enjoyed the advising experience and is concerned about the dropoff in attendance for Monday.

Carol Dochen noticed some forums were on Friday and wondered why Houston wasn't on Friday.

Mel Hailey sympathized with concerns, and mentioned that there are some transitions in staff at LSAC and we should be patient but continue to voice our concerns and make the best of it for the next two years.

Karen Severn mentioned there will be data so we can see about moving to Dallas.

Jeff Robb mentioned possible joint conference with WAPLA for next year in Las Vegas. Thurs 10/3 - Sat 10/5. Tentative plans: First day: speaker (prob from LSAC), Friday for panels, Sat for law school day.

UNLV is excited about hosting it

Terry Adams - Helms-Briscoe is consulting to find hotel for conference.

2009 PLANC conference in Las Vegas was at big property off the strip. This year, they want to be in smaller hotel, closer to strip. Some reps may go later in year to scout. In February, board members will go for planning meeting.

Jeff Robb encouraged membership to propose panels and share ideas. Often schools are more likely to fund travel if PLA is presenting. Jerry Polinard had idea for panel about undergraduate internships. He described his program briefly. Jeff Robb agreed that work experience is helpful and this would be a good panel. Jeff Robb asked for suggestions for themes. Karen Severn suggested "Build a Better Lawyer."

JR suggested some Mel Hailey inspired themes. Do You Feel Lucky? was floated as a possible LV-based theme.

Jamie Dillon pointed out that the tentative dates for the join conference are not Thursday to Saturday. Mentioned that Oct 1 - 3 is Thurs to Sat. Mentioned the need to check if there are any law forums that weekend..

Praise and recognition for Sandy Self in planning this conference. Gary Keith echoed that and mentioned bringing people in for new positions. VP serves for two years and is conference planner. New VP would not plan PLANC, but would help. SWAPLA in 2017 would be part of planning duties.

Jeff Robb mentioned that members of SWAPLA would be representing at PLANC. Asked for nominations for Gerald Wilson award. Jerry Polinard had been recognized. Anne Brandt got first award, Jerry Polinard has been recognized as well. Last year, a WAPLA PLA was given the award.

Jerry Polinard recounted previously adversarial relationship with LSAC and PLAs that was repaired by several people including Anne Brandt.

Frank Rohmer nominated Mel Hailey for Gerald Wilson award.

New concerns:

Ongoing interest in recruiting new members, newcomers to PLAdvising. Particularly HBCU and HACU schools. Gary Keith asked how many applied a received subsidy. Six people raised hands.

Stan Evans asked how to get U. Oklahoma PLA connected to SWAPLA. PLAs are sort of loosely organized. Staci Rogers has called around for many W. Texas and New Mexico schools to reach out and mentioned that LSAC list is way off. Karen Severn mentioned that sometimes Career Center director or nonactive person is listed, but they don't do anything. Jeff Robb can write letter to administration explaining benefit of Pre Law Advising to encourage support of the position. Lisa Buentello suggested contacting law students at local schools that went to those UGs and asking who was unofficial prelaw advisor. Membership threw out names of small HBCUs. Gary Keith mentioned reaching out to Kent Lollis.

Michelle Payne mentioned that Tarrant Community College has decided to put a PLA on each of six campuses. They're all going to join SWAPLA. Julie Lantrip is going to head that up. Karen Severn

mentioned that deadline to register sneaks up on people when conference is early. SWAPLA subsidy is available.

Treasurer report:

Michelle Payne gave the Treasurer report

\$131,362 in account and \$14,147 in PayPal

Pending check for bus. List of expenses and balances listed on handout sent around. Most checks and sponsors have come through. All expenses for conference are halved since we are splitting with SAPLA. Announcement for sponsorship came out after people registered and sent checks. Sponsorship included attendance cost so some checks are pending deposit to keep from charging schools twice. Balance of \$139,437.

Sandy Self moved to approve Treasurer's report. Approved by membership.

Disbursement of subsidies.

Gary Keith announced that text came though that Board Meeting for PLANC has been moved to first floor.

Motion to adjourn by Mel Hailey. Jeff Robb adjourned at 9:25 am.