

MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
General Session
February 21, 2014
Boise, Idaho

President Robert Wetherell called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. at the Law Center in Boise, Idaho. In addition to President Wetherell, in attendance were Commissioners William Wellman, Paul Rippel, Tim Gresback, and, Trudy Fouser. Bar Counsel Brad Andrews, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland, Deputy Executive Director Mahmood Sheikh, and Executive Director Diane Minnich, who acted as secretary.

MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the January 17, 2014 General Session minutes as submitted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Consistent with the authority granted in Idaho Code § 3-408, and under the supervisory power of the Idaho Supreme Court and acting as an agency thereof for purposes of Idaho Code § 67-2341(4)(a), it was moved, seconded and passed that the Board move into a confidential session to discuss matters involving admissions and professional discipline as provided under Idaho Bar Commission Rules 223 and 521. It was also moved, seconded and passed, after an aye vote was recorded from each Commissioner, to move into Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code § 67-2345(1)(d) and (f), to: (1) review personal records of attorneys for licensing purposes; (2) consider information obtained as part of an inquiry into an individual's fitness to practice law; and (3) discuss with legal counsel pending and/or potential litigation.

GENERAL SESSION

Legislative Issues – The Commissioners discussed the two Court legislative proposals. The court technology legislation is House bill 509. It was introduced in the House State Affairs Committee. President Wetherell reported he is scheduled to testify on behalf of the bill. The Commissioners reviewed the House State Affairs Committee roster, each Commissioner agreed to contact members of the Committee.

The Commissioners agreed to send a letter to each legislator that includes President Wetherell's Advocate article about the Court resolutions that were approved by the bar membership.

The Commissioners discussed providing an op-ed supporting increasing judicial compensation to the newspapers around the state. The Commissioners agreed to defer sending out the op-ed until there is a compensation bill is introduced in the legislature.

Brett Scott – The Commissioners were provided with a letter from Brett Scott, which stated his objections to the modifications of the conditions required for his to transfer to active status. The Commissioners agreed to take no action on the current conditions until he has received the results of the Washington bar exam.

Contested Judicial Election Survey of Bar Members – The Commissioners were provided with the information about the survey of bar members that will be conducted if there is a contested judicial election. At this point, it appears that there will be at least one contested judicial election – Breck Seiniger plans to run for Idaho Supreme Court against either Justice Horton or Justice Warren Jones.

2014 Awards – The Commissioners were provided with the awards descriptions and the previous Distinguished Lawyer and Professionalism award recipients. The Executive Director noted that the Distinguished Lawyer and Service award recipients are generally selected at the April Commissioners meeting.

Informational Reports – The Commissioners were provided with February membership and LRS statistics, an article on legal career opportunities in Idaho, and news clippings for the past month.

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT

January Financial Report – The Commissioners were provided with the January 31, 2014 financial report. The January 31 reports 71% of budgeted revenue was collected and 7.7% of expenses incurred.

MEMBER SERVICES

Member Services Update – Deputy Director Sheikh provided a report on the following member services: the mentor program, IALL, Annual Meeting, Lawyers Assistance Program, Section meetings and leadership, and Casemaker.

Lawyer Referral Service Update – The Commissioners were provided with the minutes of the February 13, 2014 LRS committee meeting and a memo from Communications Director Dan Black outlining the activities of the LRS and its committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director