

AGENDA
ISB ANIMAL LAW SECTION MEETING
Jan 12, 2015 12:00 Noon MST

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

- I. Call to Order.** In attendance: Sunrise Ayers, Tayler Tibbitts, and Heather Cunningham
- II. November minutes** – require approval, no quorum, will approve at next meeting.
- III. Membership Update** – Current membership update, will get updated membership numbers from the Bar at the end of January.
- IV. Budget Update** – Current section financials and goals.
- a.** As of 11/30/14, our section had a total revenue of \$1545: \$925 from dues, \$120 from donations, \$500 from Bar start-up funds. We had non-cle expenses of \$1,821 due to the administrative fee to the bar of \$1596, postage of \$12, copies at \$11, governing board at \$175, and bank fees of \$19. We had CLE revenue of \$92 and expenses of \$55. That leaves us with a net loss of \$238 for the year (through 11/30/14).
- b.** 2015 Budget: Will no longer have Bar start-up funds to work with, so we need to rely on other avenues of funding. We could focus on trying to increase membership so our dues increase, increase donations, try to seek out grant funding, hold a special event (such as a speaker or video showing) that we charge admission to, or try to hold a CLE to raise funds. Based on last year's income, we need to come up with a way to generate approximately another \$800 in income for the section. Thoughts and suggestions?
- Heather noted that the problem with CLE's is that they have been a money loser, so maybe we want to hold off on doing another large CLE until we get our membership numbers up. She suggested we could also call ALDF, Best Friends or HSUS to get free speakers and then can charge if people want CLE credit.
- V. Section Survey Results** – Go over the results from the Section survey and discuss any action items related to the results.
- a.** How often should meetings be held? 39% said monthly, 22% said bimonthly, and 39% said quarterly. Because of the pretty even split between monthly and quarterly, I propose we continue with bimonthly meetings, particularly because meeting monthly would increase our costs, but meeting quarterly might not provide enough of a benefit to our members to encourage continued member participation. Thoughts?
- b.** A majority, 50%, voted to hold meetings on the first Friday of the month. Heather already lined up our speaker for March, but I will put in a request with the bar to switch our time to the first Friday of the month for the rest of the year, beginning in May.
- c.** The most popular response on the question of what caused members to join the Section was, "I have a strong interest in animal issues" at 83% - which is helpful for us to know when determining how to recruit new members.
- d.** The most popular response regarding the most beneficial aspect of section membership, at 89%, was "keeping current on animal law issues."
- e.** The most attended CLE was Vandhana Bala's from Mercy for Animals
- f.** The highest rated CLE was Chris Green's presentation on the Ag-Gag litigation
- g.** The most common reason for not attending a CLE was due to schedule problems at work preventing attendance, maybe switching to Fridays can address this issue.

- h. Suggested CLE topics for 2015: Fish and Game rules, City animal ordinances, CAFO regs, products liability, consumer protection, antitrust laws and animal cloning, astray livestock, companion versus production animals, barking dogs, pen range, leased land to non-Indians, Indian-owned animals damaging non-Indian owned property within Indian Country, process to change animal cruelty laws, wild horses and grazing on public lands, proposed “wolf hunts,” “ag-gag” bill, impacts on wildlife if Idaho sells public lands, speakers from organizations who make money from animals, assistance/therapy dog programs, Dairy Commission, pet trusts, Idaho hunting laws, litigation aspects.
- i. Majority voted to have CLE’s first, then conduct business after the CLE.
- j. Membership dues – majority felt the fees were appropriate and should remain the same.
- k. How to increase membership: promote to law students, advertise, hold informative events, vary the days of the free CLE’s, reach out to veterinary clinics, rescue groups and vegan groups, team up with other sections to co-sponsor events, more communication.
 - i. In the vein of more communication – would folks be interested in a facebook page, a monthly email, an online discussion board, twice per year newsletter, other?
- l. Majority did not attend the co-sponsored CLE’s due to scheduling conflicts
- m. 59% said they were willing to take animal law cases on a pro bono basis. Heather noted we can get cases from ALDF and IVLP to distribute to section members.
- n. 76% said we should have a 30 minute CLE at each meeting
- o. 59% wanted the section to try and do 2 CLE’s per year.
- p. Heather noted some potential section projects:
 - Assisting Dr. Rosenthal with the re-writing of the Boise City Code.
 - Creating a booklet of animal laws in Idaho
 - Drafting jury instructions for animal abuse prosecutions

VI. Officer Election Results – Review results of the email voting and have new officers introduce themselves to the Section.

- a. 62% of eligible Section members participated and unanimously approved the slate of candidates. Mahmood commented that this was much higher than average participation for Board elections, so thank you everyone who participated!
- b. Chair: Sunrise Ayers
- c. Vice-Chair: Adam Karp
- d. Secretary Treasurer: Jaren Wieland
- e. At Large Members:
 - i. Wade Hyder
 - ii. Rick Freeman
 - iii. Nance Ceccarelli
 - iv. Heather Cunningham

VII. March 9, 2015 CLE Presentation – Professor Richard Cupp, Pepperdine University, will speak in person on the topic “Are some animals entitled to legal personhood?” The animal rights movement was originally characterized by philosophical arguments, but it is now increasingly focusing on concrete legal action. Most recently, in late 2013 widely publicized habeas corpus lawsuits were filed in New York seeking legal personhood for captive chimpanzees. Although the lawsuits were dismissed by trial courts, they are now on appeal, and similar lawsuits are likely to be filed in other states. Lawsuits such as these will likely fail in the short run, but they are not frivolous; some form of legal personhood for at least some animals is supported by several prominent legal scholars, and the media is increasingly taking the arguments seriously. Court battles over legal personhood for intelligent animals will likely entail a long-term struggle extending over many years, and the ultimate outcome of this struggle is not at all certain. Although highly intelligent animals such as chimpanzees are presently the focus of personhood arguments,

the issue has significant implications regarding the legal status of all nonhuman animals. Professor Cupp's presentation will introduce the basic concepts of animal legal personhood, and, will address some pros and cons of the approach for the interests of both nonhuman animals and humans.

- Discussed the need to promote this event wide and far to get good attendance. Also discussed charging \$10 for any attorney attendees who want CLE credit, would need someone at the front to take money. Could also possibly allow people to place lunch orders and make a small amount of money off that? Need to get the event in the Advocate and Bar Bulletin and ensure members promote it through other available avenues as well. Sunrise will be working on that.

VIII. Adjourn

**THE NEXT SCHEDULED SECTION MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, March 9, 2015
(Upcoming Meetings to calendar: May 1st, 2015)**