

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES
Idaho State Bar Board of Commissioner
May 17, 2024
Boise, Idaho

President Gary Cooper called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 8:35 a.m. at the Law Center in Boise, Idaho. In attendance at the meeting were Commissioners Judge Jackson, Jillian Caires and Mary York, Bar Counsel Joe Pirtle, Associate Director Maureen Braley, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland, Communications Director Lindsey Welfley, and Executive Director Diane Minnich, who acted as secretary.

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 §74-202(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 §74-206(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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Minutes – It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting.

ABA State Bar Delegate Appointment – The Executive Director reported that Jonathan Shirts' term as the ABA State Bar delegate ends in August 2024. Mr. Shirts expressed his interest in continuing to serve as a delegate. It was moved, seconded and passed to reappoint Jonathan Shirts to serve as the ABA State Bar delegate to the ABA House of Delegates for a term from August 2024 to August 2026.

BOC Election Update – The Commissioners were provided with the 2024 Board of Commissioners' election canvass. FJ Hahn of Idaho Falls was elected to serve as the Commissioner representing the 6th and 7th Districts. He defeated Justin Oleson of Blackfoot.

Strategic Goals Update – The Commissioners reviewed the updated goals. The Commissioners agreed with changes made based on the discussion at the April meeting. The Commissioners stated that "wellbeing" should be used in all contexts, rather than wellness to establish consistent branding. The staff agreed to provide an update on activities and programs that support the strategic goals.

2024 District Bar Officer Election – The Commissioners were provided with the final list of District Bar officers for 2024-2025. The Executive Director reported that the orientation for new District Bar officers is scheduled for June 12, 2024. The Commissioners recommended that the strategic goals be added to the orientation materials.

NextGen Bar Exam Taskforce Report – The Commissioners were joined by taskforce members Justice Robyn Brody, Lane Erickson and Carole Wesenberg and were provided with the minutes from the taskforce meetings. The taskforce members reported on the work and progress of the taskforce and a timeline for adoption of the NextGen bar exam. The plan is to draft a resolution for this year’s resolution process recommending the adoption of the NextGen bar exam. The group discussed an initial short presentation at the Annual Meeting, including information on the history of the bar exam. A more detailed presentation could be available for future meetings and groups.

2024 BOC Meeting Schedule – The Commissioners were provided with the meeting and event schedule for the rest of 2024. The Commissioners agreed to change the October meeting date to October 3, 2024, so it does not conflict with University of Idaho homecoming.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

January Financial Reports – The Commissioners were provided with the January financial reports, as of January 31, 2024. The February financials are in draft form, revenue and expenses for both months are consistent with previous years.

ED Search – The Commissioners met without staff to discuss the executive director search process. The Commissioners agreed to appoint a search committee, and the development of a position announcement. They asked that a joint meeting of the Commissioners and ILF Directors be scheduled for May 28, 2024.

MEMBER SERVICES

Member Portal Preview – IT Manager Jon Wadley presented a power point presentation of the first phase of the member portal, its initial look, and the information that will be available to lawyers.

Anniversary Celebration Committee – The Executive Director provided a verbal report on the May 8, 2024 meeting of the Anniversary Celebration Committee. The Committee is working through ideas and historical information to determine which activities and events are appropriate. The meeting notes will be provided at the next meeting.

Well-Being Committee Update – The Commissioners were provided with the minutes from the April 29, 2024 meeting of the Wellbeing Committee.

Annual Meeting Update – The Commissioners were provided with the schedule for the 2024 Annual Meeting: July 17-19, 2024, at JUMP in Boise. The Commissioners requested information about hotel reservations for their stay in Boise.

Podcast Proposal/Lawyer Assistance Program – Jamie Shropshire was planning to attend to discuss these issues, but she was sick and unable to attend. The Commissioners agreed to defer this topic to the next meeting.

Letters, reports, and news clippings for the past month were provided to the Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 12:10 pm. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director