

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

President Gary Cooper called the business meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Idaho State Bar to order at 9:35 a.m. at JUMP, in Boise, Idaho. In attendance at the meeting were Commissioners Jillian Caires, Mary York, Kristin Bjorkman, and incoming Commissioner FJ Hahn, Bar Counsel Joe Pirtle, Associate Director Maureen Braley, Deputy Bar Counsel Julia Crossland, Communications Director Lindsey Welfley, Program and Legal Education Director Teresa Baker, 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 May 17, 2024, Board of Commissioners meeting.

Meeting with ILF Board of Directors – The Commissioners discussed agenda items for the July 18th meeting with the ILF Board of Directors. The topics include renewal of the lease agreement, update on the ED search, and the progress of the Anniversary Celebration.

Idaho Supreme Court Meeting Follow-Up – The Commissioners discussed the June 2024 meeting with the Idaho Supreme Court.

2024-25 Committee Recommendations –The Commissioners reviewed the recommendations for 2024-25 committee appointments and reappointments. It was moved, seconded, and passed to approve committee recommendations as presented, with the addition of Dr. Camille LaCroix to the Character and Fitness Committee (list attached).

2024 Resolution Process – The Commissioners discussed the 2024 resolution process. The timeline and tentative schedule for the resolution meetings were provided. The Commissioners discussed potential resolutions, including the Next Gen Bar Exam, an increase in license fees, and amendments to the IRPC's incorporating the entire file rule. Bar Counsel reported that he has been discussing with the Chief Justice how to address the Court's decision regarding releasing the entire file to the client. The Executive Director noted she is reviewing financials to determine when requesting an increase in license fees may be needed, either now or next year.

Prelitigation Hearing Panelists – The Commissioners considered applicants to serve as panelists for licensing nursing homes and medical malpractice prelitigation hearing panels: John Bulger, Aaron Tolson and Mick Ohman. It was moved, seconded, and passed to appoint John Bulger as a medical malpractice hearing panelist and Aaron Tolson to serve as licensed nursing home facilities prelitigation panelist. The Executive Director noted that the statute requires panelists to be active members. Mick Ohman is a senior member and is not eligible to serve.

2024-25 BOC Meeting Schedule – The Commissioners were provided with the meeting and event schedule through March 2025. Incoming president Jillian Caires requested a later start for the September meeting due to a change in the flight schedule from Spokane.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

March/April Financial Reports – The Commissioners were provided with the March and April financial reports. As of April 30, 80.4% of revenue was collected and 30.2% of expenses incurred.

Audited Financial Reports – The audit was started late and is not yet completed. The Controller and Executive Director are working to provide all the needed information so the audit can be completed soon.

Building Lease – The Commissioners discussed the upcoming renewal of the building lease between the bar and foundation. The Commissioners discussed researching downtown Boise lease rates to ensure the rent is consistent with market rates, and whether the lease should include an early termination clause. Bar Counsel reviewed the lease and plans to recommend revising the language in a few areas of the lease.

Executive Director Search – President Cooper and the Executive Director provided an update on the search committee efforts. The position was posted on the ISB site and the ABA site. Applications are due at the end of July. The search committee will meet in August to review the applications.

MEMBER SERVICES

Anniversary Celebration Committee – The Commissioners were provided with the notes from the May 8, 2024 Anniversary Committee meeting. The staff provided a verbal report on the July 9, 2024 Committee meeting. The Committee is gathering historical information about each organization to help determine what and who to focus on for articles, reports and events in 2025.

Future Annual Meetings – The Commissioners were provided with a proposal from Program and Legal Education Director Teresa Baker regarding options for future annual meetings. Also provided was information from surrounding states regarding their annual meeting schedules, events and ideas other states are considering. The Commissioners discussed the important concepts and purposes of the annual meeting and how to improve and change the annual meeting to continue to serve the bar and the membership. Ideas discussed included shorter events, scheduling during a different time frame (not summer), regional events, collaborating with the Courts' annual conference, including family friendly events, and including more events with the resolution meetings.

Podcast Proposal – Jamie Shropshire attended to discuss her proposal to develop podcasts on LAP and well-being. Jaime provided examples to the Commissioners of well-being podcasts from other state bars. Jamie noted her objective is to create another avenue to provide information to bar members about LAP and well-being. The Commissioners agreed to consider the ideas and then let Jamie know.

Quarterly Communications Report –Communications Director Lindsey Welfley provided a report that included minutes from the May 8, 2024 Media and the Courts Committee meeting, Q2 Ebulletin and CLE Bulletin analytics and statistics, and Q2 social media analytics.

Additional Information – The Commissioners were provided with an Idaho Supreme Court order appointing a media/courts committee, petitions for reinstatement for Hollis Anderson, Kenneth Kreis, Peter Mintzer, Charlene Scheibe, Weldon Wood, and Supreme Court disciplinary orders for James Vavrek, Michael Crawford and Muriel Burke-Love. The Commissioners were also provided with the July membership count and news clippings.

The meeting was adjourned to Executive Session at 12:45 p.m. The Commissioners returned to General Session at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting with District Bar Officers - At 3:00 p.m. the Commissioners were joined by the following District Bar officers: 1st– President Michael Rude, Vice President Julia Schoffstall and Secretary/Treasurer McKenzie Crawford; 2nd – Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Tengono; 3rd – Vice President Erik Ellis; 4th – Vice President Jill Holinka; 5th – President Kyle Bastian; 6th – President JD Oborn; and 7th – President Kelsie Kirkham. The Commissioners and District Bar officers discussed the resolution process, upcoming magistrate commission appointments, future annual meeting ideas, and the fundraiser for Access to Justice – Golf for Justice. The Commissioners received reports from each district on the activities in the district.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane K. Minnich
Executive Director