

Association of Corporate Counsel
Louisiana Chapter

Minutes
Board of Directors Meeting
January 15, 2009

The Board of Directors of the La. Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel met at the offices of Laitram Corporation on January 15, 2009.

President Joni Johnson called the meeting to order. Those in attendance were, Joni Johnson, Dan Schwarzenbach, Franck LaBiche, Jim Moran, Tommy Lind, Ray Munna, Brandt Lorio, Ed Giering, Jim Redwine and Randy Sutton.

Joni asked that the Board approve the minutes of the October 9, 2008 meeting. Upon motion by Brandt Lorio, seconded by Dan Schwarzenbach, the Board approved the minutes unanimously.

Franck then presented the Treasurer's report, showing a bank balance as of January 7, 2009 of \$32,266.35.

Joni reviewed the old business, specifically the Christmas luncheon at Commander's Palace, which all agreed was a great success.

Moving on to new business, Dan presented the calendar of events for 2009. Main events were:

- CLE luncheon on March 20th, sponsored by Phelps Dunbar at Ralph's on the Park, topic 401K plans and FMLA update.
- Spring Social Event, sponsored by Jackson Lewis, New Orleans Cooking Experience at The House on Bayou Road.
- CLE luncheon on May 29th, sponsored by Ogletree-Deakins, place and topics TBD.
- CLE luncheon in June, sponsored by Fisher & Phillips, place and topics TBD.
- CLE luncheon on July 24th, sponsored by Deutsch, Kerrigan & Stiles, place – TBD, Topic – Intellectual Property Law for the Non IP Lawyer, to be presented by Duris Holmes
- Fall Social Event, September, sponsored by Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr & Smith, place and type of event TBD.
- Annual CLE with Loyola in September. All presenting law firms have been identified, except for professionalism. Chapter Member Lunch to be provided by Deutsch.
- Christmas Luncheon, December, to be sponsored by Fisher & Phillips.

Franck suggested that the topic for the March CLE luncheon be supplemented with discussions of deferred compensation policies and ERISA issues in connection with reductions in force.

Dan advised that the Ogletree sponsored event in May might be moved to November.

He also advised that the lawfirm of Kean, Miller in Baton Rouge had never paid for the sponsorship that they had previously indicated that they wanted. Jim Redwine was to follow up with them.

Regarding the need for a professionalism speaker, Brandt suggested that Dan contact Lana at Loyola to fulfill that need.

A discussion ensued regarding fees for the upcoming CLE luncheons. Randy advised that the matter had been voted on at the October Board meeting and agreed to be \$10 for members and \$40 for non members.

Brandt asked if members could pay for all CLE luncheons in advance. Joni wondered whether the Chapter should offer this option at a reduced rate, but Brandt said that he felt that the member fee for CLE luncheons was low enough. Randy asked Franck whether advance payment for multiple CLE luncheons would present any accounting problems or problems with members requesting refunds if they were unable to attend previously paid for events, but Franck said no. The group agreed, however, that upfront payments would have to be non-refundable.

Upon motion by Jim Moran, seconded by Ray Munna, the Board unanimously agreed to allow lump sum advance payments for all scheduled CLE luncheons.

Joni suggested September 18th as a good date for the Annual all-day CLE function with Loyola and said that she would discuss that date with Lana at Loyola.

Jim Moran then discussed the proposed online membership directory and passed around a printed sample. Jim advised that ACC required an optional right to opt out of such published rosters by members and Jim said that he would draft a notice to send to the Chapter members in that regard.

Jim Redwine asked whether the ACC could do a separate list for Baton Rouge area members. Jim Moran said that he would investigate.

Jim Redwine discussed the questionnaire sent to Baton Rouge area members and said that so far he had received 6 responses. He said that the responses were positive and useful and indicated that the Baton Rouge area members wanted more functions and at least one CLE luncheon to be held each year in the BR area. He said that the respondents reported attending ACC events once or twice a year, but would increase their participation if more events were in BR. He said that respondents found the ACC website useful, as well as CLE events and networking opportunities. Respondents cited areas of practice such as real estate, labor, contracts, insurance, banking and utilities and said that most were in small law departments.

A discussion on setting up a blog for legal topics among Chapter members ensued, and Jim Moran said that legal questions could be sent to the Chapter membership on the Chapter listserv. He said that because the Chapter only has about 100 members, that there was not likely to be an excess of emails received from that source.

On a related note, Joni suggested that a possible professionalism topic might be "How to use the ACC Website," and that we might get someone from ACC headquarters to present the topic. Jim Moran indicated that he would check with ACC.

Jim Redwine concluded his presentation by saying that the Chapter should have a goal of having one CLE event and one social event in BR each year.

Jim Redwine said that Jeremy Landry from Amedisys and Jim McIlway from Lamar Advertising had volunteered to be on the Baton Rouge Committee. Joni asked Jim to provide the results of the next BR Committee meeting to her so that she could disseminate same to the rest of the Board.

The next topic discussed was the upcoming Second Annual Diversity Conclave being sponsored by the Bar Assn., and whether the Chapter should co-sponsor or participate on any discussion panels at that program. Joni said that she was inclined to inform the Bar Assn. that the Chapter had too much on its plate this year and could not participate on any panels. Tommy Lind said that after the event is held, he would inquire as to how well it was attended and received by attendees this year and that the Board could then consider whether the Chapter wanted to co-sponsor or participate next year.

Jim Moran said that the Chapter should consider placing an ad in the La. Bar Journal telling people about the Chapter. Prices for full and partial page ads were reviewed. The group voted to place a one-half page ad 6 times in the Bar Journal to take advantage of the discount for multiple ads. The Board's decision was subject to approval of ad copy and graphics. Ed Giering said that his company could help with the graphic design and layout of the ad. Dan also said that Tori at ACC national might provide some graphics. Brandt suggested asking ACC for money as a co-sponsor of the ad. Jim Moran thought that was a wonderful suggestion and said that he would pursue that idea. It was noted that February 18th was the deadline for ad copy to allow placement in the next Bar Journal.

Joni then focused the discussion on the current bad economy and what the Chapter could do for members who lost employment. Dan said that the ACC national website listed job openings. Joni suggested that we publicize to our members that they could remain in good standing as members while they were in job transition and could have their dues waived in such circumstances.

Jim Redwine said that some companies had not considered whether they could benefit from an in-house lawyer and said that the Chapter should sponsor a program on such benefits. Ed wondered whether this couldn't be incorporated into our proposed ads. Jim

Redwine said that he had contacts with the Association for Corporate Growth and Joni asked him if he would contact them for co-sponsorship of such a program.

It was mentioned that Fred Preis was the current President of LABI and Dan said that he would call him and inquire whether LABI might be a co-sponsor of such a program.

The idea of whether the Chapter should send a questionnaire like the one sent to Baton Rouge area members was tabled until the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy J. Sutton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Randy J. Sutton
Secretary