

Association of Corporate Counsel  
Louisiana Chapter

Minutes  
Board of Directors Meeting  
July 15, 2009

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

President Joni Johnson called the meeting to order at approximately 12:15PM. Those in attendance were, Joni Johnson, Dan Schwarzenbach, Franck LaBiche, Jim Moran, Tommy Lind, Tom Fierke, Jose Corrada, Randy Sutton and Ed Giering (by telephone).

Joni asked that the Board approve the minutes of the April 16, 2009 meeting. Tommy Lind requested a correction to the following sentence from the January 15, 2009 minutes: "Joni also mentioned that the LSBA Rule of Law conference was to be held May 5<sup>th</sup> and that the LSBA would extend invitations to interested persons at the Chapter's request." The corrected sentence would read as follows: "Joni also mentioned that the LSBA Rule of Law conference was to be held May 5<sup>th</sup> and that Judy had offered to arrange an invitation to interested persons at the Chapter's request."

**As corrected above, the April 16, 2009 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.**

Franck then presented the Treasurer's report, showing a bank balance as of July 15, 2009 of \$29,096.62.

Joni advised that the May CLE luncheon was a success and Ed Giering likewise said that the June CLE in Baton Rouge was also successful. Joni said that she was impressed with the turnout. Jim Moran said that the Albermarle Corporation had brought a number of people. A question was raised as to whether a corporate discount could be offered by ACC to attract members from Albermarle and Franck advised that he believed that if a company had seven members it qualified for a discount.

Joni announced that the "Role of Corporate Counsel" seminar that the Chapter was planning had been cancelled because Jim Redwine had accepted a new job out of town and could not devote time to the project. Dan said that he wanted the Chapter to consider offering the program at a later date, possibly in conjunction with the Society of Human Resource Members (SHERM). The consensus was that the Chapter would consider the program for next year.

Joni also advised that the Chapter was on the list of people interested in possibly sponsoring or participating in the next Diversity Conclave.

Joni said the next CLE was to be on July 24<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by Deutsch, Kerrigan & Stiles at Andrea's Restaurant in Metairie. She said that, so far, the planned program had attracted about 20 attendees.

The Fall social event, planned for September 24<sup>th</sup> was discussed. Dan recommended an event at the new Rock and Bowl, to be sponsored by Galloway, Johnson, Tompkins, Burr and Smith. Dan said that the event would be held between 5:30 and 8:00PM, with an open bar, a chance to bowl, and that Zydeco music would start at 8:00PM for those wishing to stay later. The Board enthusiastically approved the idea and Dan said that it would be included in the brochure for the September 25<sup>th</sup> Annual CLE with Loyola, as a “night before” event.

Joni questioned whether a per person charge of \$180 for the all day CLE with Loyola would be sufficient to cover the chapter’s expenses and whether the Plimsoll location would be adequate if we attracted more than 25 attendees. The consensus was that the \$180 fee and the size of the room at the Plimsoll Club would both be adequate.

Dan advised that he had a commitment from the Ogletree firm for the 2010 Sponsorship program at a Silver level. He also said that the Baton Rouge firm of Kean, Miller had indicated that it would again be a sponsor, but the level was not yet determined. Joni said she believed that Kean, Miller was interested in a Gold sponsorship.

Ed Giering gave the Baton Rouge Committee Report, saying that the Baton Rouge members appreciated the caliber and frequency of the Chapter’s CLE events. He said that he would like to find another Baton Rouge lawfirm to participate as a Chapter sponsor and would like to have another Baton Rouge CLE event. Due to Jim Redwine having accepted a job out of town, Joni asked if Ed would take over as Chairman of the Baton Rouge committee, and Ed said that he would. Dan said that he would send Ed the Chapter’s list of lawfirm contacts for use in trying to secure another Baton Rouge sponsor.

Joni raised the issue of nominees to the Board for 2010. She said that due to Brandt Lorio having accepted a position with the Galloway lawfirm, he had resigned from the ACC La. Chapter Board. She also said that we will have to determine whether Ray Munna will maintain his ACC membership and whether he wanted to remain on the Board for 2010. Also, she said that it was not likely that Jim Redwine would remain on the Board, and therefore, if the Chapter wanted to retain 12 members on the Board, it would need to find 3 new members. Members Sophia Ryan and Pam Hansen were mentioned as good candidates for the Board. Randy said that the Chapter was not compelled to keep 12 members on the Board, but Joni said that Board members tended to be more active and so keeping 12 members was a worthwhile goal. Joni also said that, assuming the other officers would remain, and that Dan would succeed to the Presidency, that the Chapter needed a volunteer for Vice President. She said that in recent history, the President and Vice President had each served for 2 years, and so the office of Vice President was a 4 year commitment. She asked both Jose Corrada and Tommy Lind to consider the position.

Joni then solicited ideas for spending excess funds in the Chapter Treasury. Joni asked Franck about the Chapter’s recurring sources of revenue. Franck said that if the sponsorship program continued to be successful, the Chapter would receive about \$12,000/year from sponsoring lawfirms. He also said that ACC National provided the Chapter with \$25 per Louisiana member, which amounted to about \$2500/year.

Tommy Lind suggested that the Chapter consider hiring a lobbyist to promote the merit selection of judges. He suggested Randy Hanie as a good lobbyist. He said that Haynie's regular fee is \$7,000-\$7500 per month. Tom Fierke and Franck LaBiche cautioned that the National by-laws might prohibit such political activity. The consensus was that a lobbyist was too expensive. A question was raised as to whether a donation to LOJE (Louisiana Organization for Judicial Excellence), which advocates merit selection of judges, would be appropriate, but Tommy said that the organization was no longer effective.

Randy reiterated the suggestion made at the April Board meeting that we offer scholarships to students at the Louisiana law schools who were AmJur award winners in Corporation law, or a similar course. Ed said that he would contact the schools. Randy offered to help by contacting Loyola and Tulane, leaving Ed to contact LSU and Southern, to determine their criteria for scholarships and how we would coordinate the Chapter's offer.

Dan suggested that a possible use for Chapter funds might be the "Role of Corporate Counsel" program if we put on that event next year.

Tom Fierke said that an organization known as Louisiana Appleseed was looking for pro bono corporate legal support and donations for corporate law policy initiatives. Tom said that he would send information to the Board regarding this organization.

Joni turned the topic to the possibility of additional ads in the Bar Journal for the Chapter. She said that she had received 5 or 6 inquiries as a result of the ads that had run and possibly one new member. Jim said that we should consider a different type of ad, possibly including logos of those companies presently having members. Another idea was to have a well known executive from one of the companies to appear in the ad endorsing ACC membership. Joni asked that the Board members give this more thought and to share their ideas over the upcoming weeks.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Randy J. Sutton  
Secretary