

LegalCORPS Board Meeting Minutes: October 21, 2004

Attendees: Joe Genereux, Charley Ravine, Janine Laird, Dale White, Neil Meyer, Tom Lovett, Sondra Reis, Pam Wandzel, Patty Wilder, Brad Thorsen (Guest), Sherene Judeh (Guest).

MSBA Staff: None

Handouts: Agenda, Minutes of September 23, 2004 meeting, LegalCORPS Financial Activity Report dated 10/20/04, Draft LegalCORPS retention letter, Draft LegalCORPS By Laws.

Chair Joe Genereux called the meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

1. President's Report

Joe Genereux reported that he had attended the microentrepreneur conference with Mara O'Neill and others and that he had attended a law firm conference where he talked about the LegalCORPS program. Both conferences went well and several matters have been sent to LegalCORPS as a result. Mr. Genereux also noted that there will be a training session at the Dorsey firm's offices on October 26, 2004 at 3:30 p.m. followed by a wine and cheese reception at 5:30 p.m. All members of the Board are invited to attend. Mr. Genereux reported that an offer had been made to a new Executive Director candidate which was accepted and then later declined for family reasons. There had been three candidates whose names had been passed on to Tim Groshens to choose from and it is anticipated that one of the other two candidates will accept the position. The Access to Justice position at the MSBA has been filled by Nancy Mischel, who is now housed at the MSBA.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was then made to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2004 meeting as corrected, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

3. Financial Report

A LegalCORPS Financial Activity Report as of October 20, 2004 prepared by Tim Giving was reviewed and discussed. A copy will be retained in the records of the corporation.

4. VLN report

Sherene Judeh reported that we have 75 attorneys signed up to volunteer, 16 from challenge firms, 20 attorneys from greater Minnesota and the remainder from the metro area. 14 attorneys are looking for mentors and 4 mentors have signed up. In December we will have an updated database specifically tailored to the needs of LegalCORPS. Joe Genereux pointed out that we have a talking points outline that can be used when doing recruiting for LegalCORPS. There will be a case placement numbers report for the next meeting.

5. Committee Reports

a. Collaborators

Dale White reported that the collaborators training has been postponed until the latter part of November. Further information will be sent later. The committee is looking at getting new members for the Board. Mr. White forwarded a packet of materials to Tyler Lee of the Vietnamese Chamber of Commerce. Mara O'Neil reported by e-mail that she had contacted 2 people, one of whom turned her down and she is awaiting a response from the other. Charley Ravine reported that there may be a person, Abdi Duh in Wilmar who may be interested in being on the Board, and has passed along his resume. It was the consensus of the Board that we would like to have the new members of the Board on the Board by the end of this calendar year. We are still looking for a client member of the Board.

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b. Promotions and Marketing

Pam Wandzel sent mock ups of a proposed pamphlet around for the Board to look at. A question was raised about the logo and it was noted that the telephone numbers need to be corrected. A meeting is scheduled to discuss the web page. There will be a link from the LAD Committee. Gabe will be doing the work for free. Ms. Wandzel agreed to send the mock ups around by PDF file.

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c. Volunteer Development

Two trainings are scheduled for volunteers, the first on October 26 as reported earlier by Joe Genereux, and the second for November 9. Both are from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. at the Dorsey offices and will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. On October 26, Blaine Marcusson from the Attorney General's office will talk about key issues in advising nonprofits. On November 9, one of Ms. Wandzel's colleagues, Sjur Midness will be presenting regarding advising microenterprises. We need an evaluation form for each, and VLN will prepare one. There will be a DVD of the presentation available after each presentation.

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d. Governance

The representation letter was reviewed. Comments should be sent to Sherene Judeh before Friday, October 22. The proposed bylaws were reviewed and it was suggested that certain revisions should be made. Any other revisions should be sent to Sondra Reis or Sherene Judeh so that a final draft can be presented at the next Board meeting. The quorum and absence proposals were discussed and changes suggested. The officer provision was also discussed and it was pointed out that the officers do not have to be members of the Board as these bylaws are drafted. The consensus was that only Board members should be able to be officers. The powers of the Executive Committee was also discussed, as was the establishment of committees and the authority of committees. It was determined that we would review Minnesota statutes to make certain that the bylaws are in compliance with them prior to the next Board meeting.

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6. There was no old or new business.

The next meeting of the Board will be at noon on November 18, 2004 at

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.