

**MINUTES**  
**of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association Board of Directors**  
**Wednesday, August 10, 2016 (JC)**

	Present		Present
President James Griffith (JG)	X	Director Mike Brelje (MB)	X
President Elect Mike Denver (MD)	X	Director Stephen Dunkle (SD)	X
Secretary Jeff Chambliss (JC)	X	Director Leticia Anguiano (LA)	
Chief Financial Officer Amber Holderness		Director Travis Logue (TL)	
Past President Naomi Dewey (ND)		Director Nathan Rogers (NR)	X
Director Emily Allen (EA)	X	Director James Sweeney (JS)	X
Director Eric Berg (EB)	X	Director Elizabeth Vogt (EV)	X
Director Joseph Billings (JB)			
Director Elizabeth Diaz (ED)		Staff: Exec. Director Lida Sideris (LS)	X

**1. Call to Order – President’s Report - Welcome and Introduction of New Board Members**

The August 2016 meeting of the SBCBA Board of Directors was called to order at 5:20 p.m.

REPORT:

President James Griffith, reserved comment to later in the Meeting.

**2. State of the SBCBA**

a. Minutes from July 2016 Meeting

The minutes for the July meeting were approved unanimously, 0 abstentions.

b. Financial Report (JG)

A written Fiscal/Treasurer's Report was submitted together with monthly financials. AH to establish protocol to change signatories on the Bar Association Accounts. JG introduces resolution to allow on line access to the Schwab Account to the President and CFO; MD moves and NR 2<sup>nd</sup>; passed unanimously.

JG and LS have been gathering information from other Bar Associations about “excess” reserves (reserves beyond 9 month operating expenses): JG poses three questions in regards to the “excess” reserves to be answered by October if possible:

- (1) Should we have it?
- (2) Should we maintain “surplus”?
- (3) If “surplus” or “excess”: what should we do with it?

JS proposes publishing year end budget numbers since 2000 in September Issue of the

Bar Magazine with possibly a brief article re the Bar's financial status and the Board's discussions re the same. JS also proposes the possibility of soliciting opinions from Bar Members re maintaining the current "surplus" or how to handle it. A lengthy discussion ensues with all agreeing that transparency (publication to members of the financial information) is important and required but with JG noting that meeting the publishing deadline for the September Issue of the Bar Magazine feels a little quick as that deadline is a day or two after the Meeting. LS noted that the Bar Association's financial documents are available for any member to review in the Bar Association's Office. MD and NR commented that it might be best to decide the policy issues first, or at least have a Board of Director's position on JG's three questions, prior to presenting the issue to the Membership. All agreed to have JS prepare a chart with year end numbers for JG to review and JG to attempt to have an article for the October Issue of the Magazine.

c. Lawyer Referral Service Report (LS)

A written report was submitted. No questions were asked.

### 3. Directors' Reports

a. *Santa Barbara Lawyer Magazine* (JS)

A written report was submitted.

b. MCLE (NR)

A written report was submitted. NR noted that the RE Section had an MCLE scheduled for 10/5/16 and that every section was supposed to have at least three events a year and make \$10k a year. NR noted that he had emailed the heads of the ADR, Debtor/Creditor and Bankruptcy Sections re the lack or possibilities of more events. SD noted that he had talked with the head of the Criminal Law Section, his partner Catherine Swysen, who noted that it was hard to get PD's and DA's together for a Criminal Law Section MCLE unless a Judge spoke as both Offices offer MCLE's.

c. Events (MB, ED, EA)

A written report was submitted. MB also submitted the revised contract with the Canary Hotel for the annual dinner. The Canary has an \$8000.00 minimum which would be met by the 100 people with the Canary per head charge and \$1600.00 Corkage if the Bar Association wished to serve its own wine. MB noted that the 2014 dinner cost \$9993.00 and made \$712.00 and the 2015 Dinner made approximately \$15,000.00 but that the 2015 Dinner was unusually profitable due to unprecedented levels of sponsorship. It was decided to let the Canary provide the wine at a cash bar; the Bar Association would not serve wine. MD moved and JS 2<sup>nd</sup> to grant Authority for MB to contact with the Canary for \$9830.00 for the Annual Dinner—Passed Unanimously. NR moved and JC 2<sup>nd</sup> to set

Pricing at Early Bird (at least 3 weeks in advance) Bar Members at \$95.00 per person; Early Bird Non Bar Members at \$105.00 per person; Non Early Bird Members at \$105.00 and non-member non Early Bird at \$115.00. Passed Unanimously. It was also decided that sponsors would be sought and/or would pay for Scholarships.

D. Bench & Bar Conference (Update) (EB and JB)

A written report was submitted. The contract has been signed with the Courthouse and \$350.00 paid by check. EB and JB to have a recommendation on pricing in the future. \$110.00 has been the price in previous years but a discussion ensued about whether a heavily discounted price should be given in 2017 to increase declining numbers. JG noted that this was part of the bigger debate he hopes to start to address shortly.

e. Bench & Bar Relations (SD)

A written report was submitted. Additionally, it was noted that LS has an ad for the September Issue and that the format would be moderated questions.

f. Liaison (EA)

A written report was submitted. It was noted that the Food From The Bar to benefit the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County by the Santa Barbara Women's Lawyer's Association to which the Bar Association donated was a success but the final numbers were not in.

g. Fiscal (AH; JG)

A joint Fiscal/Treasurer's report was submitted and the discussion noted above about the "excess" or "surplus" funds ensued and previously noted.

h. Awards and Board Development (EV)

A written report was submitted and accepted with JG noting that he wanted to have Past Presidents Scott Campbell and ND work with the Ex. Comm on selecting future Board Members. NR noted that this was his last year on the Board. JG also proposed that any awards from the Bar Association be evaluated by the Ex Comm with Scott Campbell's input. JG was to email all current Board Members re their staying on next year and it was noted that the vote on new Board Members should occur during the September Meeting.

i. Special Projects (TL)

Nothing presented.

j. Legislative Liaison (ED)

A written reported was submitted.

K. Grant Committee (JG)

A written reported was submitted. A discussion ensued of the relationship between the SB Bar Foundation and the Bar Association. Any solicitation for the Bar Foundation or the Legal Aid on the Bar Association’s membership form is barred by the Bar’s Fiscal Policies.

**4. New Business**

LS reported on the Bar Association’s Website and its recent problems. LS reports that after several frustrating months she had located two companies to rebuild or create anew the Bar’s website: Show Up Web Design and NDIC. Show up submitted a bid at \$2700.00 and NDIC at \$2800.00. NR moved and MD 2<sup>nd</sup>, passed unanimously, that LS is authorized to contract with either company for a new Bar Association Website.

**5. Coming SBCBA Events**

Event	Event date	Last chance for <i>SBL</i> ad	Event	Event date
Next Board Meeting	9-14-2016	NA		
Past Pres. Lunch	May	NA	Justices’ Reception	Oct. 19
Law Week	May		Annual Dinner	Nov. 3
Spring BBQ	June	Done	Joint Board Meeting	Dec. 14
Golf&Ten	Sept 29	Done	Bench & Bar Conf.	1-21-2017

**6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.