

Michigan Association of Professional Court Reporters

Board of Directors

August 28, 2010

MINUTES

Present: Val Rissi, President, Kelli Werner, President-Elect, Paul Brandell, Vice President, Patricia Archambault, Karen Carmody (via telephone), Donna Clark-Licari, Anissa Nierenberger, Rhonda Zacharias, Cheryl Anne Farmer, Executive Director

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am

II. Approval of Minutes

After some minor typographical corrections, approval of the minutes of April 16, 2010 was moved by Kelli Werner and seconded by Paul Brandell. The minutes were approved.

III. Sign Antitrust Documents

The documents were signed by the board members and returned to Cheryl Anne Farmer.

IV. Consent Agenda

The following reports were pulled for discussion: Pro bono, Convention, Executive Director, Fundraising, Testing & Education, Record Times.

The remainder of the consent agenda was moved for approval by Patty Archambault and seconded by Kelli Werner. The Consent Agenda was approved.

1. Pro Bono

Val Rissi reported that October is Pro Bono month for the Lawyers Association of Michigan. Elsa Jorgensen, Pro Bono Committee Chair, will follow up.

2. Convention

A. Videotaping for CEUs.

There was discussion about videotaping session(s) at the 2010 fall convention

and placing on the MAPCR website for CEUs. Cheryl Anne Farmer has to get equipment for recording, software, etc., and has a contact who may be able to assist. Kelli Werner suggested speaking to Bienenstock's video department for a possible sponsorship or at least to check rates. Cheryl Anne Farmer said we have a member who is a CLVS. Cheryl Anne Farmer will check with NCRA regarding CEUs.

B. Realtiming Business Meeting

Kelli Werner suggested realltiming one or more sessions on the big screen. It was discussed and decided that the annual business meeting and the presentation by the NCRA representative could both be realltimed. Cheryl Anne Farmer will follow up once we see registrants.

C. Boyne Speakers

Kelli Werner asked for anyone who knows CART writers to get them to speak at Boyne.

D. Upcoming Conventions

Cheryl Anne Farmer discussed locations for upcoming conventions. We have not yet decided where spring 2011 will be. Other upcoming conventions are as follows: Fall 2010, Boyne; Fall 2011, Detroit Motor City; Fall 2012, Grand Rapid; Fall 2013, Kalamazoo. There was discussion about holding future meetings at Grand Rapids and Lansing.

3. Executive Director Report

There was discussion about the mentoring program including a contract of responsibility to ensure mentors maintain contact with their protégé. Paul Brandell suggested contacting NCRA regarding their mentoring program. Cheryl Anne Farmer suggested having a link on the website for mentorship activities.

Val Rissi would like the website to include biographies of all board members. Cheryl Anne Farmer said she would work on it. Kelli Werner suggested that board members have professional head shots taken annually at the fall convention. Donna Clark-Licari suggested using a photography student to keep costs down. She will follow up.

4. Fundraising Committee Report

A. Inventory

Karen Carmody reported that she has purchased Post-It Notes. She also approved \$100 for Melinda Dexter to purchase materials related to the Dave Ramsey presentation at Boyne. There is currently \$200 remaining in the

fundraising budget. Val Rissi inquired about the status of flash drives in the store. Karen Carmody said the problem is most places you have to purchase in bulk. Cheryl Anne Farmer said Terri Zimmerman used to purchase cheap shirts and then have them screenprinted. Donna Clark-Licari has a friend who does screenprinting. Kelli Werner mentioned that carrying apparel at the MAPCR store is difficult due to size issues in the inventory.

B. Green Bags

Anissa Nierenberger asked for a status on the reusable grocery bags. Karen Carmody said the minimum order was 200 at the site she's checked. There was discussion about the difficulty of pricing the bags appropriately since people can generally buy generic bags for \$1 apiece. Kelli Werner said she would pay \$5-\$10 for a steno or court reporting-themed grocery bag. After some research, it was found that at 4imprint.com. they have 100 bags for \$1.75/ea. The bags could be sent to Donna Clark-Licari's screenprinter friend. Donna Clark-Licari commented that the bags should be washable. Kelli Werner recommended to keep any screen printing generic -- not specific to MAPCR -- to allow for sales outside of Michigan.

C. Karaoke Fundraiser at Boyne

Kelli Werner gave Cheryl Anne Farmer some forms from NCRA'S karaoke fundraiser to use for ours.

D. Cruise

Paul Brandell reported that the cruise fundraiser has been on hold, but that he, Karen and Donna Clark-Licari will discuss it.

5. Membership Committee

Kelli Werner brought back the list of attendees from the NCRA annual convention in Chicago and will forward to the new committee chair in October the list of attendees from Michigan who are not currently MAPCR members. Anissa reported that as a vendor in Chicago, she has their contact information, if needed.

6. Testing & Education

There was significant discussion about the current number and location of certification tests in Michigan. We suffer from a volunteer shortage. Tami Smith spoke with representatives from NCRA and was told that if we did the national certification tests once a year or in alternating cities, it's okay, but they prefer twice a year at least. Val Rissi questioned the feasibility of dropping the CSR exam. Cheryl Anne Farmer questioned why people would join MAPCR if everyone is only a RPR. Val Rissi

commented that people will still need CEUs. Patty Archambault commented that some people don't want the RPR certification because they don't want to have to earn CEUs. She suggested that the RPR could be held at the fall convention. Paul Brandell suggested checking with NCRA to see if test dates could be changed. Donna Clark-Licari suggested holding the CSR exams at fall and spring conventions. Val Rissi suggested the possibility of one RPR exam and two CSR exams per year. She will follow up with SCAO. There was discussion about raising the price of the CSR. Pricing changing need to go through the Board of Review. Paul Brandell said our financial return could come from increased attendance of our conventions due to testing opportunities. There was discussion about an afternoon test on the Friday preceding the annual convention.

7. Record Times

Kelli Werner said she has a lunch meeting with Melinda Dexter to discuss her taking over the newsletter as editor-in-chief.

(The Board took a break from 1045 a.m. to 11:02 a.m.)

V. Reports of Standing Committees

1. Awards Committee

Pat Hyland, chair of the Awards Committee, requested award recommendations from the Board. Kelli Werner suggested Paulette Foster and Felicia Jordan for their service on the Testing & Education Committee. Cheryl Anne Farmer will ask Cecile Gordon to nominate them to the awards committee.

Val Rissi said Judge Benson will receive the distinguished service award. Pat Hyland wanted to know if MAPCR could pay for his room. After some discussion, it was decided that MAPCR will cover the cost of the judge's room in gratitude for his strong advocacy of court reporters.

2. Audit/Finance

Cheryl Anne Farmer reported on MAPCR's reserves. Our adviser suggests to let them lie. Cheryl Anne is continuing her efforts to save money on credit card processing.

VI. Special Committees

1. Student Seminar/Outreach/Career Day

On the subject of the test prep, Cheryl Anne Farmer asked for some new volunteers as Matt Dreger and Cecile Gordon have been doing it for a long time. Rhonda Zacharias

said she may be willing to take it over and host it at her school in Brighton. Matt and Cecile would be asked to assist at the next session in order to train the new volunteers.

2. Historian

Terri Zimmerman will take over as the new historian for MAPCR.

3. Website

Cheryl Anne Farmer said she'd like to have somebody be appointed as web assistant. Kelli Werner volunteered to assist as needed.

VII. New Business

1. NCRA/NCSA Highlights

Kelli Werner reviewed the resolutions and ideas from NCRA's annual convention in Chicago. Notes from her presentation are attached.

2. MAPCR Name Change

The board discussed the potential for a name change of MAPCR. Some comments and suggestions were:

The word "shorthand" seems outdated

"Court reporters" excludes CART and Captioners

Steno writers

MASP – Michigan Association of steno professionals. Some board members felt the word "steno" is an abbreviation for stenographic and abbreviations shouldn't be in the title.

3. Future committee members and board members to suggest to Nominating Committee

Paul Brandell suggested Gerry Hanson. Paul Brandell also recommended we attempt to find a representative of the CART community. He suggested Sue Deer-Hall. Carrie Clark-Berry was recommended for Pro Bono. Kelli Werner suggested that Cheryl Anne Farmer create a list of members who consistently attend MAPCR events. These active members might be interested in a deeper involvement with MAPCR. Cheryl Anne Farmer suggested Sherry Gleyre and Lisa Greene-Kaminski and will work on a list.

4. MECRA

Val Rissi reported that MECRA's big concern is JAVS, video with no human monitor. MAPCR needs to go to the Board of Review. There are standard education guidelines for CERs but nothing for CSRs. Val spoke with the president of MECRA, Sylvia Stratton.

She agrees we need to get a law about required certification to run JAVS systems.

Val Rissi said there is some call to combine seminars/conventions with CERs. Paul Brandell asked if there is a precedent in another state. Anissa Nierenberger and Patty Archambault suggested we invite them to the fall convention. The board recommended a joint letter from the presidents of both MAPCR and MECRA to be distributed to members of both associations on how we can work together. Val Rissi will follow up.

VIII. Adjournment

Paul Brandell moved for adjournment. Rhonda Zacharias seconded the motion. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelli Werner, RPR, CRR, CBC

President-Elect

NCRA Annual Meeting/NCSA Highlights

As Presented by Kelli Werner

Annual Meeting

1. I have the resolution pack if you want to see it.
 - A. Lots of talk about changing verbiage to include (members) “who are verbatim stenographic reporters”. People took great offense at “verbatim.”

NCSA

Resolutions.

1. Gifting. No member shall give incentive, reward, gift to attorney, client, witness, insurance companies or other persons etc., over \$100 per year. Passed. Should MAPCR propose something similar?
2. ER/DAR vendors be prohibited from giving seminars at NCRA convention.
3. Name change. Died without a fight. Resubmit with CA?
4. Offering a summary of errors to test-takers for a fee. Adopted.
5. That NCRA consider a method to retrieve notes, dictionary to produce a transcript from reporters who can't/won't. Motion failed, it's up to the states.

Ideas

1. CRR Bootcamp one week b4. “Practice with your Peers.”
2. Judicial Education. New judges training. Get a Michigan judge to assist with video singing the praises of court reporters. Ask WI for their DVD if interested.
3. California has done a cost analysis of Court Reporters vs. Digital Audio Recording.
4. NCRA has a legal ed program to offer to law school students, state bar audiences, etc. about court reporting, making a record, value of a court reporter, etc.