

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTERS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA
MotorCity Casino Hotel
Friday, October 14, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by President Kelli Werner at 9:35 A.M.

ROLL CALL

Kelli Werner, President; Paul Brandell, President-Elect; Anissa Nierenberger, Vice-President; Candy Karr, Secretary-Treasurer; Val Rissi, Senior Advisor; Melinda Dexter; Elsa Jorgensen; Darlene Fuller; Sharon Kandt, Cheryl Anne Farmer, Executive Director

ANTITRUST DOCUMENT

Anti-trust agreements signed by Board members.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

President Kelli Werner thanked the Board members for being present in a timely manner. She expressed special thanks to Sharon Kandt for her attendance as a Board member nominee.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Mindy Dexter made a motion to approve the minutes of the Saturday, June 25, 2011, phone conference; motion seconded by Val Rissi; motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following reports were pulled for discussion: Convention/Seminar, Membership, Record Times, Public Relations, Testing and Education.

Motion made by Mindy to approve the remaining consent agenda items; seconded by Paul; motion carried.

CONVENTION/SEMINAR

Cheryl Anne reported that this conference has been a difficult one to organize, due in great part to the uncertainty of the number of registrations. There were many late registrations and Saturday-only registrations, and that has caused a problem with meal planning, and has also reduced our overall revenue. She also pointed out an error in the conference budget line item for food. It should have been \$7,000 instead of \$5,000.

In response to Cheryl Anne's concern about the conference's profitability, Kelly pointed out that this conference location was chosen as less a money maker than a public relations effort. Darlene added that we are, after all, a service organization.

There was some discussion about changing the weekend format for future conferences to Friday evening through Saturday afternoon, omitting Sunday sessions. That discussion was to be continued in Strategic Planning Session.

We have a reporter captioning the business meeting and two Saturday sessions are being videotaped. For reporters to qualify for CEUs by viewing the sessions on line, we would need the ability to track whether the reporter watched the video to the end, and we presently don't have that capability. Apparently, NCRA would help us with that but would charge a fee.

MEMBERSHIP

Mindy expressed concern that a former Board member has not renewed her membership, indicating that she didn't think MAPCR represented captioners, and that Mindy was the only one who had inquired about her leaving. It was suggested the Membership Committee needs to actively follow up with reporters who don't renew. Paul observed that we need to have regular, periodic, encouraging contact with our membership. This discussion was tabled until the Strategic Planning session.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Paul suggested that we realign the Public Relations/Officials Committee, and form an Officials/Freelance Committee and a separate Public Relations Committee. He also recommended periodic e-mails to, for example, officials, to update them on issues directly affecting them.

TESTING

Cecile Gordon and Matt Dreger were unable to conduct this fall's test prep session. They have consented, however, to continue on for one more year as chief test examiners, but not necessarily test prep organizers. We still need volunteers for this task.

RECORD TIMES

Mindy suggested the RT President's message be more a "What's on Board" style article. Kelli suggested the President work with the editor on articles. This topic is to be resumed at the Strategic Planning session.

Kelli will be replacing Mindy as the Editor of Record Times.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Past Presidents Advisory Council

Val indicates she received feedback that MAPCR was doing nothing on the contracting issue, and that prompted the meeting with the Attorney General representative.

Paul cautioned that we shouldn't be consumed by any one issue in our efforts to serve our membership. We have a lot of things to focus on besides the contracting issue. Darlene pointed out that we still do need to be concerned with the various individual issues of our members. Anissa added we may need to remind our membership that we are volunteers!

2. Audit/Finance

The profit margin for golf outing was somewhat disappointing. Suggestions follow under Special Committee reports.

Cheryl Anne has changed credit card processing companies to reduce fees and "red tape." We are now using Pay Pal processing.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

1. Student Seminar/Outreach/Career Day

Anissa visited all three reporting schools this year taking along membership application forms. She reported a need to have freelancers, officials, captioners, and CART writers visit schools. We need to work to match mentors (preferably MAPCR members) with students.

Anissa suggested we need to encourage this influx of free student members by hosting student sessions as part of our training seminars.

2. Golf Outing

Paul has offered to head up the golf outing again next year in the Lansing area. Suggestions included working harder to get hole sponsors, considering June as an optional time to hold the outing, trying to reduce the food expense, and not offering a door prize for every golfer, but instead a small gift packet.

3. Website

Cheryl Anne is working to put our new store merchandise on the website.

Steno Sparkles is a company that makes reporter apparel. It was suggested a link on our website to that store would substitute for Cheryl Anne's custom shirt making enterprise.

Mindy suggested the membership list should be moved to the “non-member” section of the website to make it accessible to the public. A “suggestion box” on the website might invite feedback. Mindy will work with Cheryl Anne this year on the website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS and GENERAL ORDERS

- Certified LiveNote Reporter Training
The desirability of hosting a CLR training is still undecided. Darlene questions how many reporters will want to pay for the training, which is one day and costs around \$300. Anissa says it is a regionally recognized service that some attorneys request and are willing to pay for. We could offer it and not be out anything.
- Board of Review Recommendations
There is an opening on the BOR for a freelancer. Paul reports the BOR would like our recommendation by the end of November. Paul will compose a MAPCR Blast to seek interested applicants. Included in the Blast will be that MAPCR has been asked to make the recommendation (to eliminate any ambiguity), and a request for resume and letter expressing interest. A representative from the east side of the State is desired.

We need to get a policy in place for making future recommendations, including guidelines and screening process.

Kelli suggested maybe we need to contact people instead of asking them to put their own name forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

-Paul reported that SueLynn Morgan, former president of NCRA, has taken a high level position with FTR, a video recording company.

-Mindy suggested using You Tube for promotion of court reporting and technology and perhaps to enlist some sponsorships, Topic was moved to Strategic Planning session.

-Attorney General Findings

(See memo that Darlene sent out regarding meeting with AG’s office on contracting.)
After discussion, these conclusions were reached:

We have an anti-contracting law in Michigan with no teeth. SCAO and BOR cannot investigate alleged infractions, and even if they were found, they have no authority to impose penalties.

Options: Amend the current legislation to give it teeth or work to enact new anti-contracting law.

For either option MAPCR would need a lobbyist and also a separate PAC fund. Historically the golf outing was a legislative action fundraiser.

Paul observed that we need to foster a listening ear near the Legislature to stay abreast of legislation affecting our profession. Val suggested a task force, which could be appointed at the discretion of our President, to marry the PAC fund with the legislative effort.

Paul pointed out that our whole membership needs to be kept informed, and we need to be careful about faction forming. We need to look to NCRA as an example of how to screen ads and sponsors.

This topic was tabled until the Strategic Planning session.

-CA Management contract

At 11:35 A.M. Cheryl Anne Farmer leaves the meeting room and the Board met in executive session.

After discussion, motion by Paul to approve Cheryl Anne Farmer's contract for 2012; Darlene seconded; motion carried.

At 11:43 A.M. Executive session ended.

OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

None.

REMAINING 2011 MAPCR DATES

1. Record Times deadline: October 25
2. CSR Retest, October 18, 2011, Lansing, MI
3. RPR, RMR, CRR CBC, CCP, November 5, 2011, Clawson, MI

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:44 A.M. motion by Paul Brandell to adjourn meeting; seconded by Anissa; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace M. Karr
Secretary-Treasurer