

**TEXAS PROBATION ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
OMNI SOUTHPARK HOTEL
The Oaks Room
Austin, Texas
Monday, April 6, 2009 at 5:15pm
Approved June 12, 2009**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Roxane Marek at 5:15pm.

Roll Call

Present at this meeting were President Roxane Marek, Vice-President Aris Johnson, Treasurer Tommy Ellis, Secretary Cathy Schweitzer, Parliamentarian Acie Berry, Ed Cockrell, Tobin Lefler, John McGuire, Caroline Rickaway, Angie Saenz, Rodney Thompson, and Paul Zuniga.

Julia Ramirez was not in attendance.

Quorum was present.

After roll call, the ballots were given to the Nominations Committee by Robin Dulock, Secretariat.

Approval of January 26, 2009 minutes

Motion to approve minutes was made by Ed Cockrell and a second was made by John McGuire. There was no further discussion. **Motion Carried.**

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tommy Ellis provided the Board with a detailed handout regarding the financial status of the Texas Probation Association. As of March 31, 2009, TPA had a net worth of \$65,943.10. On April, 4, 2009, another net worth report was run and a balance of \$58,502.42 was noted. Since that time, CMIT brought \$13,780.00 that was deposited today. The registration table collected a total of \$6,900.00 more. That brought the net worth to \$79,182.42 through today. Registration fees collected for this conference to date totaled \$35,790.00. A motion was made to approve this report by Angie Saenz with a second by Tobin Lefler. **Motion Carried.**

Secretariat Report

As of April 3, 2009, the TPA membership consists of the following: 541 adult members, 224 juvenile members, 40 associate members, 4 combined members, and 1 alumni member for a total of 810 members. In February 2009, 60 members were dropped and for March 2009, 45 members were dropped. For this Conference, there were 25 new members and/or renewals at the registration table.

A motion was made to approve this report by Tommy Ellis with a second by John McGuire. **Motion Carried.**

Lobbyist Report

Sally Velasquez reported that she has good news and bad news to report. The State budget is in place for budget restoration for both adult and juvenile. The bad news is some items were not funded. Ms. Velasquez noted that there is a large amount of competition of the Legislator's attention during this session. More bills are being introduced and lobbying is getting tougher.

In the past few months, Ms. Velasquez expressed her appreciation for the Legislative Co-Chairs and for their hard work and dedication. The next 3-4 weeks is crucial for what we are going to receive from the State. She will continue to ensure that the interests of TPA are protected.

The co-chairs of Juvenile Legislative Committee as well as our Lobbyist were informed today that what is given this session may not be restored in the following session due to the economy. It is being touted as a one time funding allocation.

A motion to accept her report was made by Angie Saenz with a second by Ed Cockrell. **Motion Carried.**

Committee Reports

President Roxane Marek noted that a motion to accept all committee reports will be made at the end of the reports unless there is specific issues that need a separate vote on important issues.

a. Adult Legislative

George Hernandez of Comal County CSCD advised that the Adult Legislative Committee met yesterday at 4pm and received a report from Lobbyist Sally Velasquez. The Senate recommended that \$25 million be given for recruitment and retention of probation officers, \$11.5 million for additional growth, and \$10 million in outpatient funding. The House did not recommend any increase in funding. Now, this matter will go to Conference Committee. Mr. Hernandez is optimistic that we will see some additional monies on the adult side.

At their meeting, the Committee did discuss some bills pending in the Legislature may have some impact on the CSCDs and they will continue to monitor this situation.

Tobin Lefler asked for clarification regarding the comments on the next Legislative session that were made by Lobbyist Velasquez. She clarified that the finance committee commented to Mr. James M. Martin and Mark Williams, Juvenile Legislative Co-Chairs, that they would fund certain measures but not

extend them to the next session so that people were not misled about the monies they were given. Mark Williams also added that they were informed that for the next session, each agency may be asked to cut 10% from their budget.

George Hernandez discussed Senate Bill 1917 which would allow for misdemeanor probation fees to be collected by the supervising county rather than the original jurisdiction. This bill may hurt or help departments depending on their situation. There are currently problems associated with this Bill as there is nothing regarding enforceability. Rodney Thompson discussed Senate Bill 1118 would set guidelines for all departments to have progressive sanctions in all departments for the Judges to use as sentencing guidelines. There is no money tied to this bill at this time. The Legislative Committee is supporting SB 1118.

b. Juvenile Legislative

James M. "Bubba" Martin reported that the Juvenile Legislative Committee met on Sunday. They continue to emphasize the Committee's three basic goals for Sally Velasquez to work on. They are most opposed to the merging of TJPC and TYC. The Committee also supports having three Juvenile Chief Probation Officers to be on the TJPC Board of Directors. This appears to be more difficult to achieve at this time. A standards committee made up of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers has been discussed, but as of today, they have postponed this issue so as not to confuse the Legislature. A bill exists at this time for Juvenile Probation Officers to carry guns. The Committee took a neutral position on this issue but at the same time, they will work on a resolution to support local control. There is a great deal of bills before the Legislature and they will continue to monitor them throughout the session. The Sunset Commission ruling is the most key issue to this Committee at this time.

Mark Williams asked if the Board would sign a resolution to support local control of the gun issue as this is a mixed issue before the committee. It has not been worded at this time so President Roxane Marek asked that the Committee forwarded the wording for the Board to vote by email.

c. Advanced Education Committee

It was reported by Latricia Coleman that this Committee met on March 20, 2009 to review the nominations for the scholarship recipients. Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department nominated all persons eligible for this scholarship. Three winners were selected: Donovan Bennett (in pursuit of nursing at St. Phillips College), Felicia Croslyn (Associate of Applied Science at Palo Alto College), and Roxane Robago (nursing at St. Phillips College). Two of the three students have provided proof of enrollment thus far. The money awarded is to go to tuition and books.

The Committee is hosting the Putt For Cash (two for \$1.00) that will raise additional scholarship money. They are also asking the TPA members contribute \$1.00 per month or any amount to be used for future scholarships. There is a

balance of \$924.00. A donation of \$50.00 was received which brings the balance to \$974.00. With the two scholarships being awarded tomorrow, the balance will be \$474.00 with the additional \$250 to be awarded in August. Vice President Aris Johnson commended this committee for all their hard work.

d. Awards and Resolutions

Belinda Zachary advised that this Committee met by email and phone to select the award recipients that will receive their award on Tuesday. There will also be five resolutions given out at the luncheon. It was requested that persons that are requesting resolutions provide that information as early as possible so that these are not being done at the last minute.

e. Ethics

There was no report made by this Committee.

f. Exhibitors

Ed Cockrell reported that there are 26 paid exhibitors for this Conference. Because of space issues with the Omni Southpark Hotel, a waiting list was created to accommodate those exhibitors that did not register in time (at least 10 were turned away). Several companies paid \$100.00 to have their information placed in the registration bags. Dustin Fore was commended for all his hard work on this Conference. There have been no complaints so far from the exhibitors. Jerry Faz did ask if there was something that could be done to ensure that all exhibitor information was ready to be inserted in the bags prior to bag stuffing. Several boxes of pamphlets were found after all the bags were stuffed. Ed Cockrell advised that this is explained to the exhibitors, but this appears to be out of our control.

g. Finance

A report was given by Lucy Reyes for this committee. Susan Lee, the only other committee member, has not been able to make the conferences. Mrs. Reyes did review the books and noted no problems in the record keeping. She commended Treasurer Ellis for all of his detailed work. It was also requested that members be added to this Committee to assist with the review.

h. Long Range Planning

Julia Ramirez was not available for this meeting. Iris Bonner Lewis reported on her behalf. It was requested that Dr. Smith, of Harris County JPD, be added on this committee. Per President Roxane Marek, this will be voted upon at the next meeting.

i. Membership

Iris Bonner Lewis reported that the Committee continues to send out letters to those members that have not renewed their membership. It was requested that the TPA Board of Directors approve for this Committee to extend a free membership

to each adult and juvenile department to be awarded by the Chief of that Department. This will increase the overall numbers of the Association as well as increase what the Association can do for the members. Robin Dulock of the CMIT advised that the cost of printing new cards would be minimal. Since there are so many journals left over from publication, we may not need to order additional copies. If we did, this would only add an additional \$200 or so. A motion was made by Rodney Thompson to offer one free new membership to each adult and juvenile probation department. A second was made by Ed Cockrell. **Motion Carried.**

j. Nominations

At the time this report was due the Nominations Committee was still counting ballots. We continued on until their return at 6:35pm.

Election results are as follows by name and number of votes:

For President: Aris Johnson (250), Roy Rob (1), T.J. Robertson (1), Rodney Thompson (2), Nick Rieninger (1).

For Vice-President: Angie Castillo Saenz (85), Toby Ross (153), Dale House (29), Mac Williams (1), Caroline Rickaway (1), and Toby Fore (1).

For Adult Member: Pat Finnegan (256), Todd Jermstad (1), Cody Hardin (1), Jim Stott (1), and Dustin Fore (1).

For Juvenile Member: Paul Zuniga (251), Mike Griffiths (1), Dan Collins (1), Tracy Vasut (1), John Perry (1), and Dustin Fore (1).

For At Large Member: Jed Davenport (163), Tracy Vasut (1), and Michael Thomas (1).

After the results were read, a motion was made to accept this report by Angie Saenz with a second by John McGuire. **Motion Carried.**

k. Publications

Marcy Anthony requested that associate member, Dr. Rochelle Cade, Shelly Smith, Gregg County JPD, and Earnest Perry, Jefferson County CSCD, be added to her committee. Because Mr. Perry obtained permission from his Director today, his name will be tabled until the June meeting. A motion to approve Dr. Rochelle Cade and Shelly Smith was made by Aris Johnson with a second by Ed Cockrell. **Motion Carried.**

l. Registration

Jerry Faz reported that 399 persons pre-registered for the Conference. Of the pre-registrants, 384 showed for the conference and 18 failed to show. There were 7 walk-ins for a total of 391 attendees. It was requested by Vice President Aris

Johnson that Tammy Stuckey, Gregg County JPD, to be added to this committee. This will be voted on at the June meeting.

m. Sales

Cosette Brannon asked that the Board consider adding Karla Kutch to be a member of this committee. It was also requested that the sales items be removed from the TPA website due to the cost related to this. A motion for this was made to Ed Cockrell with a second by Tobin Lefler. **Motion Carried.**

n. Silent Auction

Shelia Hugo reported that 216 items have been donated this far for this Conference. Both Silent Auction and Sales were combined in the same room, which appears to be working out well. 11 members have signed up work times at the auction. Shelia Hugo noted that an email went out to the Directors, but not the Silent Auction Committee, that requested gift baskets be brought for the Silent Auction. She requested that something be sent out on the listserver prior to each conference to request donations. It was also noted that alcohol cannot be included in the Silent Auction. The alcohol in the baskets was given for door prizes and speaker gifts. There has been an issue with the doors being locked for the Silent Auction; the hotel staff has been reminded of this again as someone was allowed in the room last night to deliver a basket.

o. Site Selection

Vice President Aris Johnson advised that the Site Selection Committee met yesterday to choose a location for the August 2011 Legislative Conference. The Omni Bayfront was chosen as a recommendation for this conference. There will be some re-negotiation with the hotel for reduced exhibitor fees and a waiver of parking fees. South Padre Island and Dallas also bid on this conference. There was concern that perhaps the Association may not have local support from Dallas County. For South Padre Island, the concern was that the hotel space may not have been sufficient for our needs. The Association will pursue this in the future and consider bids for the Dallas area in 2012.

The other recommendation that this Committee has for the Board is to approve the contract for the 2013 Annual Conference to be held at the Austin Sheraton. Because of the limited exhibitor space at this hotel, the Committee feels that we need to seriously consider signing this contract. Vice President Aris Johnson will contact the hotel to see if meeting space and free parking can be acquired at no cost to the Association for the Conference Planning Committee.

A motion was made by Tommy Ellis to accept this Committee's recommendations and pursue contracts with both hotels. A second was made by John McGuire. **Motion Carried.**

p. Technology

Stacy Pickett provided a written report to the Board which was attached with the agenda. Part of her report included the costs of having sales items on the website. This was dealt with earlier by Cosette Brannon of the Sales Committee. Mrs. Pickett requested that if any Board member wanted statistical information (i.e. number of hits, etc) regarding the website, they can email her directly and she will provide that information. She asked that she continue to be apprised of those vendors that can be listed on the website that are gold sponsors. As far as legislative updates, she has not received a request to place information on the website. She would like as much as current information, both from the adult and juvenile side, so that the members are informed of this. Rodney Thompson will provide the update for the adult side. Training will be also included on the website. The link to CMIT will suffice for most of the trainings offered. As always, Mrs. Pickett asked the Board to contact her with any issues regarding the website. The last request made by this Committee was to approve additional monies (\$346.45) to allow more room for photographs and for the updating of this section. A motion was made by Rodney Thompson with a second by Caroline Rickaway to allow for this expense. **Motion Carried.**

At the conclusion of this report, the Nominations Committee had not returned with election results. A motion was made to accept all committee reports, with the exception of Nominations, was made by Tobin Lefler with a second by Rodney Thompson. **Motion Carried.**

PAC Report

John McGuire reported that the new 2009 TPA PAC lapel pins have been purchased and have been positively received by the membership. Sales have been good to date and everyone was encouraged to buy one. The PAC Committee voted to purchase a flat screen TV to raffle with the drawing to be held at the luncheon. They will continue to use raffles as a fundraiser at each conference because it has been so well received.

Lance Bledsoe of Brazos County JPD is looking into holding a softball tournament as a PAC fundraiser. The information regarding this will be presented at the June Board meeting.

A motion to accept this report was made by Vice President Aris Johnson with a second by Tommy Ellis. **Motion Carried.**

Report from APPA Affiliate Liaison

Caroline Rickaway reported that the 2010 APPA Winter Institute will be held in Austin from January 31 through February 3, 2010. A request was made for TPA to be a co-host for this conference. A major benefit of doing this will allow TPA members to receive the membership rate if we co-host. Rita Garcia of Bexar County CSCD will be a program chair person for this Conference. She will be at the Business meeting on Wednesday. A motion was made by Rodney Thompson

for TPA to serve as a co-host for the 2010 APPA Winter Institute with a second by Tobin Lefler. **Motion Carried.**

A motion to accept this report was made by Ed Cockrell with second John McGuire. **Motion Carried.**

Report on 2009 Annual Conference

Parliamentarian Acie Berry reported that this Committee has met for the past 15 months in preparation for this Conference. He commended the Committee and noted that he was very proud to serve on it. He did want to remind the Board that there will be a social event tonight at the hotel tonight that is sponsored by Time Warner. This will include a presentation on the Time Warner “Central Texas on Demand Most Wanted Program”. This program carries the most wanted persons from Bell/Lampasas County. Pat Finnegan thanked the Board and Committee Chairs for their continued support.

A motion to accept this report was made by Angie Saenz with second by Rodney Thompson. **Motion Carried.**

Report on 2009 Legislative Conference

Iris Bonner Lewis advised that speakers are being secured for this Conference. Both the Adult and Juvenile Departments are working together. Great things are to be expected in Houston in August. Mrs. Lewis was encouraged to contact the Board for any assistance that is needed.

A motion to accept this report was made by Angie Saenz with second by Ed Cockrell. **Motion Carried.**

Old Business

Change in letterhead as proposed by CMIT – Robin Dulock presented a sample of the letterhead that CMIT is recommending for the Association. The reason for this change is that the current letterhead focuses on CMIT rather than TPA. The new letterhead would put the focus on TPA. This letterhead would be ordered in increments of 1000; if there would be a change in Board members, new orders would not be placed until election time. This would reduce waste of the letterhead. Larger text was requested because of the small letters on the paper. Also, if needed, this could be printed from a computer. A motion to accept the new letterhead was made by Angie Saenz with a second by Tobin Lefler. **Motion Carried.**

New Business

Appointment of co-chairs for the 2010 Annual Conference in Beaumont – Roxane Marek spoke with James M. “Bubba” Martin and was informed that Ed Cockrell is the co-chair from the juvenile probation department. Jim Stott has recommended Mark Asteris for the adult co-chair.

Discussion related to Board Meeting

Vice President Aris Johnson, President elect, announced that the next TPA Board of Director’s meeting will be held at 10:00am on Friday, June 12, 2009 in Houston, Texas at the Omni Houston (host hotel for the next conference). 10 rooms have been blocked at the State rate with no obligation to the Association. Reservations must be made by May 10, 2009. Notices will go out to verify the date and time.

At this time (6:15 pm), the meeting was adjourned until the Nominations committee returned with the election results. The meeting resumed at 6:35pm.

Adjournment

President Roxane Marek asked for a motion to adjourn this meeting at 6:40pm. The motion was made by Vice President Aris Johnson with a second by John McGuire. The meeting was adjourned. **Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By,

Cathy Schweitzer
Secretary

Roxane Marek
President