

**TEXAS PROBATION ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING  
OMNI HOUSTON HOTEL  
Dorset Room  
Houston, Texas  
Monday, August 17, 2009 at 5:00pm  
Approved October 5, 2009**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Aris Johnson at 5:00pm.

**Roll Call**

Present at meeting were President Aris Johnson, Vice-President Toby Ross, Treasurer Tommy Ellis, Secretary Cathy Schweitzer, Parliamentarian Acie Berry, Ed Cockrell, Jed Davenport, Tobin Lefler, Julia Ramirez, Caroline Rickaway, Angie Saenz, Rodney Thompson, and Paul Zuniga.

Jed Davenport and Paul Zuniga arrived during the Secretariat report. Pat Finnegan was not in attendance.

**Quorum was present.**

President Johnson welcomed new Board members, DeeAnn Collins and Dr. Mel Brown. Acie Berry was also presented with a resolution as he retired July 31, 2009 from the Williamson County Juvenile Probation Department.

**Approval of June 12, 2009 minutes**

Motion to approve minutes was made by Tommy Ellis and a second was made by Rodney Thompson. 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 July 31, 2009, the Association had a net worth of \$81,444.63. Treasurer Ellis commented that there is a big improvement in the budget in part due to increased conference fees. From August 1, 2009 through today, a bank balance is \$88,604.63 and a net worth \$85,881.99. Registration fees of approximately \$24,000.00 have been collected through today; there are registration fees for his conference that are still outstanding. From the exhibitors, \$17,000.00 has been collected through today. A motion was made to approve this report by Angie Saenz with a second by Tobin Lefler. **Motion Carried.**

**Secretariat Report**

As of August 14, 2009, the TPA membership consists of the following: 594 adult members, 236 juvenile members, 38 associate members, 2 alumni members, and 5

combined members for a total of 875 members. Our membership increased from 808 to 875 in part based upon the free memberships being given to each adult and juvenile probation department. In June 2009, 26 members were dropped and for July 2009, 34 members were dropped. The new membership contest report results were given to President Johnson. A motion was made to approve this report by Angie Saenz with a second by Ed Cockrell. **Motion Carried.**

### **Lobbyist Report**

Sally Velasquez thanked the board for their leadership. During the interim time period until the next legislative session, she will continue to shape the issues that face the field. Representative Sylvester Turner is scheduled to be here on Wednesday to speak to the membership. Ms. Velasquez will be busy engaging the legislators that will promote the issues of TPA and take contributions to them for their campaigns. A motion to accept her report was made by Rodney Thompson with a second by Tommy Ellis. **Motion Carried.**

### **Committee Reports**

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

#### **a. Adult Legislative**

Rodney Thompson reported that the committee met and is looking at interim charges for the next session. Right now, there are several charges that this committee is looking at: funding mechanisms, front-end funding formulas, availability and lack of substance abuse resources, monitoring sources (GPS, ELM, alcohol, etc.), barriers/resources for CJAD to use for new risk/needs assessment, reviewing current research in relation to specialty courts, and the way we do Community Justice plans and how to make them more effective and useful. Copies of their interim charges are available if anyone wants a copy.

#### **b. Juvenile Legislative**

President Johnson reported on behalf of this committee, which met on Sunday. They discussed interim charges that they will be working on. There is no official report with regard to outcomes based on allocation of funding by TJPC as they were unable to have a quorum at their board meeting.

#### **c. Advanced Education Committee**

Greg Bryant noted that this committee has no new information to report since their last report in April. They will present their report for this conference on Wednesday at the Business meeting.

#### **d. Awards and Resolutions**

Belinda Zachary noted that there will be two resolutions read at the luncheon tomorrow for George Hernandez and David Baker.

**e. Ethics**

There was no report from this committee.

**f. Exhibitors**

Ed Cockrell noted that there are 35 exhibitors registered for this conference. There have been no complaints thus far and everything is going well. It was requested that Heather Hagen from Tarrant County CSCD be added to this committee.

**g. Finance**

Lucy Reyes reported that a meeting was held with Treasurer Tommy Ellis to review the financial records of the Association. As usual, his records are impeccable. Cindy Cherry of Jefferson County CSCD has requested to be placed on this committee.

**h. Long Range Planning**

Julia Ramirez noted that this committee did not meet at this conference. She did meet with Mark Asteris, her co-chair of this committee. She asked for Dr. Terry Smith to be voted on today as a member for this committee as this was brought up at our last meeting. Lupe Mendiola of Harris County Juvenile is also requested to be added to this committee.

**i. Membership**

Lisa Coward reported that the committee met this morning to look at membership issues. They will continue to contact members that are on the drop list to encourage their renewal. They will also continue to recruit new members at each conference. CMIT has been assisting the Association in providing membership information in their program registrations. The free departmental membership drive will continue through December of this year.

Nick Reininger of Caldwell County CSCD, who was present at the meeting, requested to be placed on this committee.

**j. Nominations**

Paul Zuniga reported that there will be three positions open for the next election: At large currently held by Angie Saenz, Juvenile position held by Julia Ramirez, and Adult position held by Rodney Thompson. Notices will go out around September to notify the membership about the nominations process. The deadline for nominations will be sometime in November.

**k. Publications**

Marcy Anthony requested that Kimbra Graves be placed on the committee as this was discussed at last Board meeting.

The Publications Committee met yesterday to discuss splitting up the TPA Journal so that each member will be responsible for a specific section. This will ensure that the Journal will go out in a timely manner. There will be a new section entitled, "Chief's Corner" which will consist of an editorial or question/answer format. There will also be spotlights on the various committee chairs. Lucy Reyes will coordinate the "News From The Field" section with Stacy Pickett to be placed on the website. There have been some issues in the past with Stacy not receiving pictures to post on the website that were mailed to her department. They will work to remedy this situation.

Marcy Anthony asked the Board for a vote to include color within the journal. This would not apply to every journal. The cost for 1,000 copies of the journal with color on the cover would cost \$27.89 per quarter (which would make the cost go up about \$300-\$400 – we now pay \$2200-\$2400). For two of the journals, we could put two colors on the front of the cover and a full color spread in the center of the journal that would include photos. That would also be \$27.89 each quarter as well.

Tobin Lefler made a motion to accept Kimbra Graves to this committee as well as Dr. Terry Smith to Long Range Planning. A second was made by Angie Saenz. **Motion Carried.**

President Johnson then noted that before the Board was an issue to add more color to the journal. Discussion ensued regarding this topic. Treasurer Ellis confirmed that the budget would afford this cost at this time. A clarification was made that if you had a full color spread in the middle of the journal, then the cover would only be 2 colors on the outside. It will be full color on the front of the journal if there was no color spread.

A motion was made by Tobin Lefler to accept the added cost (\$1600-2000 per year) of color to the Journal with a second by Caroline Rickaway. **Motion Carried.**

It was also brought up that there have been complaints that have been made regarding the timeliness and quality of the journal. Marcy feels that with the new division of the duties will help with these issues.

**l. Registration**

It was reported by Janie Laque that there were 272 pre-registrants, 11 on-site registrants, 6 no-shows for a total of 277 participants.

**m. Sales**

Chris Murphy reported that new shirts, bags, and hats (about \$1,800.00) have been purchased to sell. They have sold \$562.00 to date at the conference. It was

requested that a 10% discount flyer be given to members when they renew their membership. There was no opposition to this request.

**n. Silent Auction**

For this auction, Shelia Hugo noted that there are 154 items. She discussed a few items that are featured for this conference.

**o. Site Selection**

Toby Ross reported that this committee met on Sunday to discuss proposals. Toby Ross recommended that the Board grant him the authority to sign a contract for the Westin Park Central Hotel in Dallas for the August 2012 Legislative conference. A site visit was conducted to this hotel and Toby feels this hotel will meet our needs. Dallas County CSCD has agreed to host this conference and will secure the involvement of Dallas County Juvenile as well. The hotel rate will be the prevailing state rate. A motion was made by Tobin Lefler with a second by Ed Cockrell to give Toby Ross permission to sign a contract with the Westin Park Central Hotel in Dallas. **Motion Carried.**

For April 2012, we will return to Houston for the Annual conference as Waco could not meet our needs. Currently, the Omni Houston is in a bidding war with the Westin Hotel at the Galleria. A contract will need to be signed by August 31, 2009.

The following is recommended by this committee for other future conference will include looking at the following cities: April 2014 - Corpus Christi, Galveston, or South Padre Island; August 2013 – Fort Worth; April 2013 – Sheraton in Austin.

Toby Ross also discussed possible changing the annual conference to sometime in February rather than March/April. This is something that the committee will continue to look at. This was brought up because it would lengthen the time between conferences and allow us to work more around holidays, school, and the end of the fiscal year.

**q. Technology**

Stacy Pickett provided the Board members with a report and statistical report in relation to our website. It was noted that the numbers for website hits appear to be low, and she wants to ensure that we get the word out regarding the website. Also, it was requested that we consider how we can be linked on other websites, such as APPA. Mrs. Pickett also asked to be kept apprised of exhibitor changes from conference to conference. Marcy Anthony noted that she will incorporate information on the website in the Journal.

It was also brought up for a “member’s only section” that will involve a user name and password. For one user name and password to be used by everyone, it will cost the Association \$60.00. To allow everyone to set up their own user name and password, it will cost the Association \$600.00. Much discussion ensued

about this topic. Rodney Thompson made a motion to accept the \$60.00 proposal (one user name and password for the Association) with a second by Paul Zuniga. One member was opposed. **Motion Carried.**

A motion to accept all committee reports (including the 10% discount) was made by Ed Cockrell with a second by Angie Saenz. **Motion Carried.**

### **PAC Report**

The current PAC treasury has \$2623.59 as reported by Ron Zajac. They purchased 2 banners for \$84.80 and a laptop computer for \$512.98 for the raffle. To date, they have sold \$60.00 in pins and \$805.00 in raffle tickets.

A motion was made by Angie Saenz to accept this report in its entirety with a second by Tommy Ellis. **Motion Carried.**

### **Report from APPA Affiliate Liaison**

Caroline Rickaway advised that she will be glad to contact APPA with regard to a link from their website to our website. Next week, their conference will be held in Anaheim, California. Attendance is expected to be down due to the economy. In 2010 (January 31 through February 3), the winter conference will be held in Austin. TPA members will be able to pay the APPA member rate because TPA is a co-sponsor.

A motion was made by to accept this report by Tobin Lefler with second by Tommy Ellis. **Motion Carried.**

### **Report on 2009 Legislative Conference**

Julia Ramirez reported that things are running smoothly at this time. A profit of \$400 was made on the golf tournament. The hotel has been extremely cooperative and amenable, even with last minute changes. Treasurer Ellis commended Julia and all committee members for their hard work.

### **Report on 2010 Annual Conference**

Mark Asteris reported on behalf of this Committee. The Holiday Inn will be the host hotel. It has been renovated and finally finished. There is one overflow hotel right now with 40 rooms. They need 4 more speakers to complete the agenda. They are also working on entertainment such as a casino trip. He also believes the meal cost will be very reasonable for the Tuesday luncheon. Christie Davidson from CMIT did remind the Board that they can ask for technical assistance for speaker costs. A motion to accept this report was made by Angie Saenz with a second by Paul Zuniga. **Motion Carried.**

After this report, President Aris Johnson reported the Board that Past President Roxane Marek will be the liaison person with regard to conference planning. She will work with SHSU and the committees for each conference.

A motion to accept both committee reports was made by Angie Saenz with second was made by Paul Zuniga. **Motion Carried.**

**Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

**Discussion related to Board Meeting**

President Aris Johnson announced that the next TPA Board of Director's meeting will be held in conjunction with the Chief Probation Officer's Meeting on Monday, October 5, 2009 at 5:00pm. Notices will go out to verify the date and time.

**Adjournment**

President Aris Johnson asked for a motion to adjourn this meeting at 6:15pm. The motion was made by Jed Davenport with a second by Toby Ross. The meeting was adjourned. **Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By,

Cathy Schweitzer  
Secretary

Aris Johnson  
President