

**TEXAS PROBATION ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING  
OMNI SAN ANTONIO HOTEL  
Bolo's Room  
San Antonio, Texas  
October 6, 2008 at 4:30pm  
Approved January 26, 2009**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by President Roxane Marek at 4:30pm

**Roll Call**

Present at meeting were President Roxane Marek, Vice-President Aris Johnson, Secretary Cathy Schweitzer, Parliamentarian Acie Berry, Ed Cockrell, Tobin Lefler, Julia Ramirez, Caroline Rickaway, Rodney Thompson, and Paul Zuniga.

Angie Saenz (Castillo) came in after roll call.

Tommy Ellis, Michael Fairley and John McGuire were not in attendance.

**Quorum was present.**

**Approval of August 25, 2008 minutes**

Motion to approve minutes was made by Rodney Thompson and a second was made by Julia Ramirez. There was no further discussion. **Motion Carried.**

**Treasurer's Report**

President Marek provided a written report from Treasurer Tommy Ellis who was unable to make the meeting. The report noted a register ending balance of \$76,325.79 as of October 2, 2008. There were no further questions. A motion was made to approve this report by Ed Cockrell with a second by Tobin Lefler. **Motion Carried.**

**Secretariat Report**

Christie Davidson reported from the Correctional Management Institute of Texas in the absence of Robin Dulock. As of October 3, 2008, the TPA membership consists of the following: 523 adult members, 207 juvenile members, 44 associate members, and 4 combined members for a total of 778 members. In August 2008, 51 members were dropped and for September 2008, 14 members were dropped. It was noted that the numbers have decreased. A motion was made to approve this report by Aris Johnson with a second by Paul Zuniga. **Motion Carried.**

## **Lobbyist Report**

Sally Velasquez provided a review of the June 2008 Juvenile Correctional Populations and Projections report as well as a report on Adult and Juvenile Correctional Population Projections for Fiscal years 2008-2013. The projection reports will assist TPA in developing our positions for the upcoming legislative session.

Ms. Velasquez reported that the House and Senate Joint Corrections Committee recently met in part to discuss TYC issues. During the meeting, it came out that both adult and juvenile probation were complimented by Senator Whitmire and Representative Turner. Trends in juvenile probation indicate that the referrals are flat at this time and that the arrests are not being made.

Adult probation projections show that diversion funds are working as the statistics are on an incline. There is some concern on the fact that some treatment beds are not being utilized due to the lack of service providers, but this is not the fault of probation. TDCJ Director Brad Livingston was charged with how to direct the funds so that the beds will be available.

During the meeting, Senator Turner questioned how the \$217 million that was allocated last session. The LBB is to put together the information regarding his questions. The results of this report will help us determine our position on this issue.

Ms. Velasquez noted that she will continue to work with the TPA Adult Legislative Committee on how pay raises can be given under the basic supervision budget.

With regard to TYC, it appears that the Legislature is still not happy with how this agency is going. Commitments to TYC are increasing. There is a great deal of work to do with this, and the Sunset report will affect what will happen with this agency and how much funding they will receive.

There are more reports to come which Ms. Velasquez will continue to review. One such report is the from the Comptroller's office; it is expected out in November. She will also continue to attend any appropriate legislative meetings.

After this report, discussion occurred about having a TPA Day at the State Capital. Comments were made in favor of having TPA Day is that it will show the Legislature that we are still interested and willing to address matters that are of great importance to us. It will also allow the membership to meet the Legislators face to face.

During TPA day, there is also a reception. At the last reception, it was noted that there were not many members present at this. Also, the members did not go and

personally speak with the representatives and senators that were there. If we have a reception, we need to encourage membership attendance and contact with the persons in attendance.

Ms. Velasquez noted that the approximate cost of TPA Day is \$4,100. This includes gifts, invitations, the reception, and music. It was noted that the costs appear reasonable and that this is a good investment. The date for this event has been set for January 27, 2009.

A motion was made by Angie Saenz (Castillo) to continue with TPA Day as in the past and a second was made by Caroline Rickaway. **Motion Carried.**

A motion to accept the Lobbyist report in its entirety was made by Angie Saenz (Castillo) with a second made by Rodney Thompson. **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 are specific issues that need a separate vote on important issues. Also, President Marek advised the Board that she recently learned from her IT Department that several emails she sent the Board members regarding the committees were not received. She apologized for this.

**a. Adult Legislative**

Rodney Thompson noted that most of these issues have already been discussed in the Lobbyist report. This committee will wait until after the Probation Advisory Committee meeting to get together and focus on legislative issues. The first issue is the salary increase for CSO's. The Probation Advisory Committee, CJAD, and TDCJ are all on board for this increase. The other issue identified at this time is an increase in funding for residential facilities. As the committee learns more, they will look at other issues.

**b. Juvenile Legislative**

There was no report from this committee.

**c. Advanced Education Committee**

A written report was submitted by Greg Bryant and Latricia Coleman asking for approval of Renee Bennett of Dallas County CSCD, who is currently a member in good standing. A motion was made to accept this appointment by Tobin Lefler with a second by Ed Cockrell. **Motion Carried**

The report also noted that the Advanced Education Committee funds total \$924.00. A \$200 scholarship was recently awarded. Scholarship nomination letters will be sent out in January.

**d. Awards and Resolutions**

Belinda Zachary sent an email advising that nominations are due December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008 for the 2009 Annual Conference Awards. A question was posed as to whether the deadline is December 12<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup>. This will be clarified. President Marek noted that a request for nominations will be posted on the list server.

**e. Ethics**

There was no report from this committee.

**f. Exhibitors**

Ed Cockrell advised that this committee is gearing up for the April conference and are looking for new companies to attend TPA. There will be a limit of 25 exhibitors for the 2009 Annual Conference in Austin. Mr. Cockrell also noted that Advantage Interlock wanted to sponsor something for this conference. He will be getting back with them on what they wish to sponsor. He also commented that some of the vendors have advised that they will be attending less conferences each year due to the rising costs they are also experiencing.

**g. Finance**

Lucy Reyes had no report at this time.

**h. Long Range Planning**

Stacy Pickett was unable to attend the meeting. She submitted a written email with two attachments that were copied for the Board. Since Mrs. Pickett will be out 2 months for knee surgery, all website changes will be made by President Marek. It was also noted that Julia Ramirez will be looking at training needs for future TPA Conferences. Rodney Thompson will also be working with CJAD on training workshops.

**i. Membership**

The committee indicated to President Marek that they are working on increasing membership numbers. She will get with Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Coward on this issue.

**j. Nominations**

Paul Zuniga reported that three persons have been nominated for the 2009 Annual Conference elections. The nominations are as follows:  
Vice-President - Toby Ross, Angie Saenz (Castillo), and Dale House.  
Juvenile Discipline – Paul Zuniga.

Mr. Zuniga will continue to solicit nominations for these positions. A motion was made for the approval of Tara Perkins of Tarrant County CSCD and James Foster of Lavaca County JPD for co-chairs of this committee. A motion to accept these co-chairs was made by Angie Saenz (Castillo) with a second by Rodney Thompson. **Motion Carried.**

**k. Publications**

Mrs. Anthony was not able to send a report.

**l. Registration**

There was no report from this committee.

**m. Sales**

Mrs. Brannon requested via President Marek that Chris Murphy of Tarrant County CSCD, who is a member in good standing, be appointed to serve as co-chair of this committee. A motion for this was made by Julia Ramirez with a second by Ed Cockrell. **Motion Carried.**

**m. Silent Auction**

There was no report from this committee. At the August meeting, the committee requested the appointment of Anna Rodriguez of Cameron/Willacy Counties CSCD, who is a member in good standing. A motion was made by Angie Saenz (Castillo) for this appointment with a second by Aris Johnson. **Motion Carried.**

**p. Site Selection**

Vice-President Aris Johnson noted that the Association is signed for conferences through 2010. We are currently negotiating for 2011. The Omni Southpark in Austin is the only hotel to offer a contract for April 2011. There were several changes that were made in the contract prior to this meeting. Each Board member was notified of the contract via email and a copy was presented at this meeting. If this contract is approved, Vice-President Johnson will sign the contract later this week. For August 2011, Corpus Christi, Houston, and South Padre Island have all expressed interest in hosting the Legislative Conference in 2011. Rodney Thompson is also possibly working on another location. A motion was made by Tobin Lefler to accept the contract from the Omni Southpark with a second by Angie Saenz (Castillo). **Motion Carried.**

A motion to approve all committee reports was made by Rodney Thompson with a second by Angie Saenz (Castillo). **Motion Carried.**

**PAC Report**

Toby Ross reported that 206 of the PAC pins were sold to 198 persons. The raffle at the recent Legislative conference raised \$550.00. The PAC treasury now totals \$3299.10. A question was raised about the pin orders and the cost related to pins. John McGuire

orders the pins for this. It was noted that the price does decrease with the increasing number of pins purchased. Mr. Ross was not sure of how many pins were purchased as Mr. McGuire handles the specifics regarding the pins. Julia Ramirez noted that she sold some pins in her department and will send the money to Toby. Lobbyist Sally Velasquez did suggest giving the Legislators pins during TPA Day.

A motion was made by Ed Cockrell to accept this report in its entirety with a second by Angie Saenz (Castillo). **Motion Carried.**

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

Caroline Rickaway noted that there was no report at this time.

#### **Report on 2009 Annual Conference**

Parliamentarian Acie Berry noted that they have met once since last Board meeting. There have been no changes to the agenda which will be ready by the end of next week. He will forward a copy for the list server. Parliamentarian Berry did express some concern over the lack of sponsorships for breaks at this conference. However, the increase in registration fees may alleviate some of the financial strain. Christie Davidson of CMIT, suggested writing a proposal to CMIT for possible sponsorship of a speaker. A motion to accept this report was made by Angie Saenz (Castillo) with second made by Aris Johnson. **Motion Carried.**

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

President Marek noted that part of Mrs. Ramirez' report was discussed during the Long Range Planning Committee report. Mrs. Ramirez stated that they have begun to pick committee members for this conference, but they have not formally met. A motion to accept this report was made by Aris Johnson with second was made by Paul Zuniga. **Motion Carried.**

#### **Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

#### **New Business**

##### **Representation of Adult/Juvenile Disciplines in officer Elections**

President Marek brought up the issue of having representation of adult and juvenile disciplines in the President/Vice-President elections. In the past few years, this has worked out in the nominations that we had representation from both fields. However, there may be a time in the future that this does not happen. President Marek asked the Board to think about this for now and that it will be discussed at a future meeting.

##### **Presentation by South Padre Island Convention and Visitor's Bureau**

Sylvia Soliz of the SPICVB presented a proposal to the Board regarding the hosting of the 2011 Legislative Conference. Both the Sheraton and Radisson hotels on South Padre Island will honor the state per diem for hotel rates. Both beach front hotels have been remodeled since Hurricane Dolly. In the past, it was noted that TPA has blocked 1200 rooms in the past with 899 of those being booked. Mrs. Soliz noted that this is very

impressive. Both hotels have also agreed to honor the per diem for the Saturday before the conference and the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday after the conference. In addition to this, the SPICVB will give \$1,000 for the Association to use as they please and sponsor another reception in 2010 at one of our conferences. A question was raised over the amount of rooms each hotel will guarantee. Both the Radisson and the Sheraton have 120 standard rooms. Of those rooms, they will only give 100 to the Association. They do have condominiums that they will offer at a discounted rate. There is concern over this because that would mean the Association would have to have several over flow hotels, which are available. There may be a way to add trolley service to the hotels for the conference. Also Mrs. Soliz stated she would give 10 VIP gifts to the Board as well as discounted tickets to Schlitterbahn. One month prior to the conference, she will solicit in kind donations from the community for the Association to use. The dates that were selected were August 27 through August 31, 2011, the weekend prior to Labor Day. The dates cannot be set any earlier in August, but they may be able to look at sometime later in September. Mrs. Soliz was advised that the Board will make a decision at the January Board meeting. An invitation to dinner was made Mrs. Soliz to the Board for this evening.

#### **Donation from Omni Southpark**

Vice-President Aris Johnson advised he was given 2 tickets and a parking pass to a UT football game on October 18, 2008. He wanted to offer this to the Board. Any interested party can submit a written donation for the tickets to Vice-President Johnson and the money will be given to the PAC. A motion was made to approve this by Rodney Thompson with a second by Caroline Rickaway. **Motion Carried.**

#### **Discussion related to Board Meeting**

The Board discussed meeting the Monday prior to TPA day so as to discuss any business prior to that event. She will advise the Board via email of the date, time, and location.

#### **Adjournment**

President Roxane Marek asked for a motion to adjourn this meeting at 5:41pm. The motion was made by Paul Zuniga with a second by Tobin Lefler. The meeting was adjourned. **Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By,

Cathy Schweitzer  
Secretary

Roxane Marek  
President