



TCDLA Board of Directors/Annual Membership Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 6, 2009, 12:10 pm
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio, Texas

Introduction

Rick Hagen calls the meeting to order.

Roll Call:

Roll call was waived. All who are not Excused (see roll sheet) are counted Present.

Key: P = Present; E = Absent but Excused; A = Unexcused Absence

Past Presidents in Attendance: Bob Hinton, Scrappy Holmes, Dan Hurley, Tim Evans, Richard Anderson, Mike Heiskell, Craig Jett, Bill Wischkaemper, Mark Daniel, V. Perini, Gerry Morris, David Botsford, Betty Blackwell, Bobby Lerma

Staff: Joseph Martinez, Cynthia Hampton, Philip Wischkaemper, Melissa Schank, Dawn Thornburgh, Susan Fuller, Dana Cruz, David Rojas, Michelle Garza, Christine Abascal, Nicole Pham, Craig Hattersley, Alex Chronis, Denise Garza, Miriam Rendon

Minutes from the March 7, 2009 Board meeting in Lubbock are approved

Comments from the President, Rick Hagen

Rick discusses his goals for the past year, which were to improve:

- relationship with the membership
- image of defense lawyers in general (video is almost done)
- relationship with the State Bar

We have made significant progress on all three.

We have only a few issues with the Audit.

Staff has a beautiful new office.

LEI relationship is better, but we have these issues to address:

- administrative costs paid to TCDLA, which are excessively low for what we do for them
- merchandizing (he recommends none)
- role of LA's staff, upon which LEI is completely dependent

Rick recognizes Mike Heiskell for his leadership of the Strike Force this year.

Email – assume everything will be read and made public.

We must be respectful to the CCA, but still maintain our independence.

Fallen Heros

- ★ Tom Sharpe, Brownsville
 - ★ Ken McClain, Houston
 - ★ Mike Haley, San Antonio
 - ★ Bob Sussman, Houston
 - ★ Homero Martinez, Laredo
 - ★ Jim Greenfield, San Antonio
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Executive Director's Report: Joseph Martinez

Revenues and trained lawyers are both on the rise. Our final count at Rusty is 917! Melissa is recognized for her hard work in making this year's event a huge success.

We have about 2800 dues paying members. Board is reminded that each member has three complimentary memberships to give away to first time members.

Capital Assistance Report

Philip reports on seminars and encourages folks to come to Forensics. The West Texas Capital Defender Office is going strong with 18 cases. His office will again be assisting with Code Books.

CDLP

Mark reports we have trained 2378 lawyers at 20 seminars and have also trained 303 at our capital training.

Publication Report

Cynthia reports that we will be updating our publications after the Session with priority being given to the Code Books (PC & CCP) which our Research Attorney Kathleen is already working on.

Cheat sheets (at least Expunctions and Sex Offender Registration), Traffic Code, State Motions CD will also be updated as needed.

Appellate Manual 2nd edition is being debuted at Rusty and we expect to sell out of the ones we brought with us.

Thanks to Kelly Pace, we will shortly have an update to the Search and Seizure Manual ready to go. Kelly has worked long and hard on this book for no compensation, and has completed the update, but unfortunately it could not be produced in time for Rusty. Updating a book like this one is a huge task and we really appreciate Kelly's hard work on this project.

We will also have for the first time a "non-penal code crimes" manual, which will include excerpts from relevant codes such as Family, Gov't, Health & Safety, etc.

Voice for the Defense

Rick thanks Emmett Harris (who will ascend to the officer chain) for his work on the Voice for the past few years, and compliments Greg Westfall on his work so far.

Greg echoes compliment of Emmett. He explains how the Voice works and who works on it. We are always in need of articles (no attacks on judges, please, but no censorship either).

Greg notes importance of online access to the Voice (which we have), and favors having a blog.

New Affiliate Association

- Motion to accept Smith County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association as an affiliate
- Motion Carries

Bylaw Change

- Motion to approve bylaw change (reduction of executive committee to officers + 2 board members)
- Motion Carries

Upcoming Events

Stan invites all to:

- Orientation at S. Padre
- Santa Fe Retreat

Committee Reports: The following committees reported

- Amicus: Greg says the committee has been busy this year.
- Corrections and Parole: There is now a website to sign up to get client calls from prison: Texasoffenderfriendsandfamily.com.
- Federal: Richard is gone, but Philip says hopefully there will be an updated forms CD.
- Lawyers Assistance: Kelly Pace is still on TLAP.
- Legislative: Keith says topic was covered at seminar.
- DWI: Larry Boyd reports:
 - ❖ New ALR rules are good for us
 - ❖ Lege curtailed right to call breath test witnesses
 - ❖ Blood draws only on 3d offense
 - ❖ Top Gun seminar
- Strike Force: Mike Heiskell is staying on as co-chair with Gary Udashen. Nothing to report right now.

Free Registration to all TCDLA Seminars for Past-President's

Debated in Exec. Com. Discussion was tabled until September when we will have pro/con position papers in the Voice and on the website

- Motion to Table
- Motion Carries

Awards

Nominations Slate 2009-2010

- Motion to Approve Slate of Candidates
- Motion Carries

Swearing-in of Board Members

Stanley Schneider sworn in as President and presented with gavel by Rick Hagen

- Motion for Ascendency of Officers
- Motion Carries

Remarks by President Stan Schneider

Swearing-in of Officers

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph A. Martinez
Executive Director