

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS-BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

DATE: APRIL 5, 2017

FROM: MARK A. SESSUMS, SECRETARY

TO: NATALIE LEMOS, PRESIDENT

SUSAN STAFFORD, DIRECTOR

Present on Call: Natalie Lemos; Susan Stafford; Reuben Doupe; Richard West; Ashley Myers; Thomas Duggar; Peter Gladstone; Diane Holmes; David Manz; John Schutz; Jonathan Root; Roberta Stanley; Jack Long; Mark Sessums; Elisha Roy; Kristen Adamson

Absent from Call: Dori Morales and Charles Fox Miller

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. Natalie initially recounted her trip to the National AAML meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, and the benefits to her and future leaders of the Florida Chapter to attend. The issues she learned of will assist us this year and in years to come and she highly recommends attendance to all on the BOM. The 2018 meeting is in Hawaii and is another reason to go!

At the national meeting our Bylaws were approved. However, the one change was that the term "Board of Managers" needs to remain instead of "Board of Governors." Otherwise, the approval was without modification.

National advised that we have a low response to the Fellows review of prospective Fellow candidates. National needs these reviews and emphasizes that these forms are critical to their review of candidates.

National is going to implement a deferral program for candidates that are not approved initially such that if there are particular concerns these can be addressed without re-application. For instance, if more leadership or publication or speeches or involvement this can be accomplished during the deferral period.

Natalie brought up the recent *Hooker* decision from the Florida Supreme Court authored by Justice Pariente. The Appellees lawyer, Jane Walsh, is soliciting *Amicus* briefs from the Chapter and from the Section. Mark Sessums and David Manz explained the far reaching effects this would have on existing prenuptials and gift analysis. Kristen Adamson moved for the Chapter to file an *Amicus* brief on a motion for rehearing. Cynthia Greene will be contacted to determine her availability and if not available Mark Sessums and David Manz will file.

Natalie brought up for consideration her idea of creating a regional CLE program for judges. Natalie will create a proposed budget and outline for consideration.

Natalie indicated that the Chapter Facebook ads have caused increased hits for the Chapter website. This is the result of the amended Ads on Facebook that gained Bar approval. The initial hits were 800+ and this doubled in the next time period to over 1700+. This increases recognition of our brand and is what we are attempting to accomplish by advertising.

Peter Gladstone next reported on the Nominating Committee's efforts. The Nominating Committee's slate of Officers and Executive Committee and Board of Managers for 2017/2018 is: President, Peter Gladstone; President-Elect, Jonathan Root; Vice President, John Schutz; Treasurer, Mark Sessums; and Secretary, Thomas Duggar. These nominations were accepted unanimously. The Nominations for the Board of Managers for the terms expiring 2020 are: Kenneth Gordon; Joseph Hunt and Laura Davis Smith. The bylaws do not require a vote on the Board of Managers nominations and none was taken. The balance of the nominations for the calendar year were not discussed but are published on the website.

John Schutz next presented on the Long Range Planning Committee. Several in person meetings have occurred. A formal presentation will be made at the annual meeting. However, the take-aways are that the Institute is losing attendance and has settled at about 300. The reason appears to be that Cert Review is gaining attendance. We need to not compete with Cert Review but forge a higher level product. In 2018, the hotel contract will expire and this will free us to have a format of break-out sessions on Thursday and a general session on Friday and no sessions on mother's day weekend. We will attempt to bring in National level speakers that have spoken at the National AAML program or the ABA. The object is to be more hands on with question and answer. Generally, an advanced program. To accomplish more continuity, the goal is to have a formal structure that is followed year after year with the Institute Committee comprising the President and President elect and the past three Institute Chairs as well as persons that have been highly involved over the years such as Roberta Stanley and Gordon Brydger.

Natalie indicated that all Committee Chairs submitted their committee reports and this will develop continuity to the various committees.

Natalie indicated that the Charitable Donations committee headed by Elaine Duggar has made recommendations and that this will be circulated. The goal is to agree on an amount to be donated to charities each year and for interested fellows to submit potential charities to receive these funds based on pre-determined criteria.

Mark Sessums reported on the Institute Committee. The registrations are slightly lower thus far. The hope is that David Manz presentation on Hooker and the e-mail blast on this will increase registrations. The initial feedback on the program outline has been good. Susan Stafford indicated that not everyone has RSVPed for the BOM dinner hosted by Natalie. Please do if you have not!

Elisha Roy reported on Legislation. Alimony is dead in the Legislature. Senate Bill 590 is a concern as it is a Texas law copycat and has major legal flaws. Elisha is watching this law closely.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.