

Texas Chapter AFCC Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES
August 21, 2009
Bexar Family Solutions, 2118 N. Main Ave., San Antonio, Texas 78212

Meeting called to Order at 12:43 p.m. by Louise Lee

Present: Louise Lee, Jack Bannin, Trevor Townes, Stephanie Hall, David Eaker, Janet Heppard, Mary Fogel, and Anita Stuckey.

Absent: Martha Musselman, Kathleen Hamilton, Patricia Barrett, Mardi Winder-Adams

Old business: Minutes of previous BOD meeting approved

Committee Reports:

Finance: Patricia Barrett—no report given

Conference Planning (Louise Lee)

- 1) Brochure to printer 8/21/09, copies of the brochure will be mailed to board members for distribution
- 2) Recapped speakers/their talking points/credentials
- 3) Possibly last year for South Texas College of Law as AFCC will also utilize location for spring training conference
- 4) Every board member agreed to bring one bottle of wine or a six pack of beer for reception to supplement Martha Musselman's contribution. All agreed to assist Louise Lee as necessary with conference duties.
- 5) Janet Heppard can get state rate for speaker's at local hotels—will coordinate with Louise Lee
- 6) Janet Heppard's law students will help with name tags
- 7) Web management:
 - a. Jack Bannin will post a notice on web site that conference materials will be available online for downloading after registration/payment received.
 - b. Conference materials will be provided via jump (thumb) drives
 - c. Louise Lee will send email listing to Stephanie Hall, who will notify attendees via email letter (composed by Stephanie Hall & Louise Lee) that materials provided via jump drives—can accommodate lap top or attendee should pre-print presentation for note taking.
 - d. Louise Lee will get David Eaker conference materials (brochure, speaker bios, attendee contact information (new), presentations—everything that would have gone into paper binders.
 - e. Presentations due September 18; Louise Lee will get to Jack Bannin and David Eaker within a week for web availability October 1.
 - f. Jack Bannin will password protect and coordinate with Stephanie Hall and Louise Lee

- g. Initial purchase of 125 jump drives @ \$10 each + \$1 each for saving materials to drive
 - h. David Eaker will negotiate option to prepare more if registrations warrant
 - i. 20 copies of paper materials will be available at conference
 - j. Meeting Minutes, letter, brochure to be posted on web pages
- 8) Proposal to for up to 15 OAG legal staff to attend at reduced rate of \$75 (conference cost) approved: Jack Bannin nominated, Janet seconded, Anita abstained, approved unanimously by remaining board members.

Membership/Education/—AFCC will send Texas AFCC 3 lists—current, deactivating, and new. AFCC requested local chapters send out email follow up to those deactivating.

National numbers are flat.

All national and chapter fees frozen during tough economic times.

Publications (Jack Bannin)--Painful but Jack Bannin got publication out. AFCC very appreciative of layout and gave “Huge kudos for newsletter.” When asked about how to do a newsletter, someone said, “Talk to Texas.”

- Newsletter now posted on the web site.
- Request for new articles for future editions
- Next newsletter—at end of year; will include nomination slate and voting form

AFCC Chapter Report (David Eaker)

Massachusetts excited about getting out their first newsletter in several years.

David Eaker: AFCC initiating a strategic planning (5-year plan) new task force by Robin Deutsch (chair) on child custody consultants (composed of CASA, plus half legal and half PhDs)

Chapter reports—themes:

- NY chapter conference on effect economic downturn having on families
- AZ doing a border tree for their conference
- FL funding empirically based parent plans including bench book/workshops/trainings per new statutes all family code verbiage changed—updates in progress. Removed custody. Doing a retreat soon to do 5-year planning.
- MA offered a seminar plus \$75 dinner on Mom vs. Dad--who is the better parent?
- MN still organizing as chapter—meet quarterly with committees to demystify family court—what judges want, etc. New committee on juvenile court and CPS matters. Also doing new mediation program plus economic ramifications to families. Moving from custody/children to economic ramifications on divorcing families. Should be chapter by fall.
- MO doing mediation trainings; parenting coordination. State Bar of Missouri president is also Chapter president—good collaboration.
- NJ had parenting coordination pilot—extended—funded research project to determine pilot’s effectiveness.
- ONT looking for chapter status—difficulty with Canadian government (potential 250 members) vs. Texas’ 138.

- Tony Neugebauer (Executive Director of Bexar County Domestic Relations Office) will use legislative update provided by David Eaker to update Bexar County associates
- New Orleans conference meeting minutes--Where will family law be in 10 years (relevant to Mary O'Connell's speech). How to pay for all of the added professionals?
- ONT creating law school seminars to give tools to open law practice and get involved in CPS cases and juvenile courts.

Nominations (David Eaker)—Judge Hamilton would not agree to be president-elect. Louise Lee suggested sending an email to board members soliciting president-elect.

All present were encouraged to give Louise Lee names of potential nominees.

Legislative Watch (David Eaker) Concerns:

- Affidavit power of attorney for grandparents potential changes for family law
- In mediation may start determining who will not be designee. What to add in final orders? TFC Chapter 34 non-parent relative.
- Standing implications (see David Eaker's newsletter article)—originally aimed at military families. May need some clean up of some of these statutes at the next legislative session.

Liability Insurance (Stephanie Hall) no report

Board size: currently 12 members and total was reduced two years in a row. David Eaker suggests leaving at 12--agreed. Stephanie Hall's term will end and she indicated she may not return. Trevor Townes's resurrection term is expiring. Jack Bannin will be done and may be back, Patricia Barrett informally indicated this is her last year. Louise Lee will take Martha Musselman's position. Mardi Winder-Adams is fine staying at secretary. Two members at large and treasurer position must be filled. Jack Bannin's willing to stay (hooray!)

Mary Fogel had two people lined up—Sandra does protective order docket and other is a retired judge, John Buffington, now guardian ad litem. Judge Macias indicated she may be interested if asked. Jeff Coen may also be interested.

Open Floor Discussion: At New Orleans' AFCC conference, Judge Hamilton Texas' flag over the Alamo—cost \$60—sold for \$100. Agreed we should duplicate for our silent auction. Davy Crockett magnet and certificate for national, too.

Suggestion to move next year's conference to the University of Houston.

Next Meeting: October 22 at the South Texas College of Law at 4 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.