

THLA MINUTES OF 10/6/11 BOARD MEETING

Board Members Present: Anita Margolis, Shawn Huston, Denise Visconti, Tom Bunton, Jana Rubenstein, Loren Freestone, Michael Hansen, Alex Calero, Megan Zellmer

1. GUEST PRESENTATIONS:

Carl Demaio - SD Mayor

Carl Demaio presented his request for endorsement by THLA for the mayoral election, indicating he is an "out" member of the LGBT community, his partner is publisher of the Gay & Lesbian Times, and he believes he has the best fiscal plan for the SD community, which he has formalized in written action plans, unlike other candidates. He expressed his election campaign is focused on his merit as a fiscal leader, rather than his sexual orientation, although he claims to be proud of being the first openly gay City Council member to be elected in his conservative district (Rancho Bernardo). An example of his philosophy in practice is his support of the Boy Scouts being permitted to continue leasing Balboa Park land, even though it openly discriminates against gays and lesbians, because it has been the only organization that has expressed an interest in providing services for children at the park. He stated he has solicited others, but none have come forward.

Following Demaio's controversial presentation and subsequent Q & A by the Board, Alex Calero moved to table the subject of mayoral endorsements until the Nov. Board meeting. Shawn Huston seconded the motion, which carried. The Nov. Meeting is to address our current bylaws and policy(ies) regarding endorsement of candidates for city mayor, including options (e.g. rating candidates, rather than simply in favor or against endorsement, doing an interview with candidate responses to be published to members in lieu of endorsements etc).

It was further moved and approved that Anita Margolis would contact Bonnie Dumanis and Bob Filner to advise of THLA having been approached by other mayoral candidates seeking our endorsement to provide Dumanis and Filner an opportunity to do likewise and to inform them of our policies and requirements (CV with cover letter in advance indicating their reason for seeking, and justification for being given, THLA endorsement, with in-person presentation to the Board at a regular meeting. Candidates are also to be informed we may be endorsing more than one candidate if we opt to endorse any, which is still under discussion and consideration.

Daniel Benjamin - report on Lavender Law NLGBT Affiliate Congress lunch meeting

After providing his report on the NLGBT Affiliate Congress held during the Lavender Law Conference, which is summarized in the attached "Proposed Affiliate Membership Responsibilities and Benefits, Benjamin offered to serve as THLA's liason to the NLGBT. Denise Visconti also volunteered to serve as liason. The Board moved and approved having Board member Visconti serve as liason with Benjamin to serve as alternate. Visconti will prepare the survey given to Benjamin by the NGLBT Bar Assoc.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES: July 2011, August 2011 and Sept. meetings - Megan moved, Denise seconded and all approved the July and August 2011 minutes.

Denise moved, Tom seconded and all approved the Sept. Minutes as amended per Anita's suggested changes.

3. BOARD MEMBER WEBPAGE:

(A) Still need photos, and possibly additional info from the following:

- 1) Thomas Bunton
- 2) Shawn Huston
- 3) Michael Chu
- 4) Alex Calero
- 5) Elizabeth Lee - also need contact address

(B) New on-line, fill-in application form has been uploaded on the website, compliments of Judge Groch (our new member and a self-proclaimed Acrobat fanatic) and Scott Carr

4. PURCHASE OF ADOBE CONTRIBUTE SOFTWARE: Verify Shawn has delivered program to Michael Manley. - Shawn delivered program software to Anita. She'll load it on her computer then deliver to Michael M. Both Anita and Michael will have authority to make changes to the THLA website, which authority will pass to future co-Presidents.

5. KOREAN ATTORNEYS BAR ASSN. 4TH ANNUAL DINNER: Report from Loren and Megan (attending reps).

6. SPONSORSHIP OF SDCBA DIALOGUE ON DIVERSITY: Anita and Loren to report on 9/20 program.

7. ORANGE COUNTY LAVENDER LAW CONFERENCE - Hollywood, CA 9/8 - 9/10/11

(A) National LGBT Bar Assn. (An Affiliate of the American Bar Assn.) Affiliate
Congress Lunch Meeting on Sept. 10th:

- 1) Report from Daniel Benjamin
- 2) Denise Visconti and Daniel Benjamin offered to serve as liasons to the NGBLT
- 3) Survey completion

See notes above under presentation by Daniel Benjamin.

8. The Center Gala - Sat., Oct. 22, 6 p.m. Hilton San Diego Bayfront: Table purchase?

After discussion of the ticket prices, which are expensive, Alex and Michael M. indicated they were planning to attend the Gala anyway, so they offered to go as THLA reps.

9. Mentor-Mentee Program:

- A) Assign committee chair - Elizabeth volunteered?
- B) Solicit Board member to volunteer as mentors
- C) Student membership (paid current) requirement to be verified with Megan before

assignment

In Elizabeth's absence, student member/guest, David Greco, volunteered to serve as committee chair to organized the Mentor-Mentee program and coordinate assignments. Michael M. will provide David with the list of student sign-ups received at the fall law student mixer. David will obtain the paid member list from Megan and contact those who are not members to advise that only student members are eligible for the program (per vote of the Board) and encourage them to join THLA. All Board members present indicated their willingness to serve as mentors. If more are required, David will notify the co-Presidents to solicit same from our general membership. Students will be matched with attorneys by areas of practice/interest.

10. 2012 ANNUAL DINNER: May 10, 2012

- A) Speaker - Phillips confirmation
- B) Other planning
 - * Anita put dinner on SDCBA master events calendar

Topic not addressed.

11. 2013 - 20th ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL DINNER

possible speakers:

- Jerry Brown
- Gavin Newsom
- Ted Olsen (think around Gibson Dunn retreat)
- Susan David
- Barney Fank

Alex Kozinski (chief judge 9th Cir.)

Kamala Harris (32nd AG of Calif)

Therese Stewart (S.F. Chief Deputy City Attorney)

Eric Holder

Laura Duffy

Anyone on Supreme Court

Tabled

12. **MIXERS:**

(A) **Fall Student Mixer** - Confirm scheduling at Bourbon on Sept. 22. Report from Shawn regarding purchase of drink tickets (availability and cost). Decide on number to purchase and how to advertise.

Excellent attendance. Cost of students' drinks (1 per) was approximately \$279.78. Many sign-ups for attorney/student mentor/mentee program.

(B) **GSDBA Mixer** - Executive Director of GSDBA has proposed mixer with THLA in late May or Sept. 2012 (Note: our annual dinner is scheduled May 10th). Anita to follow up with Tom Luhnnow per Board's direction re venue and costs.

No update to report.

(C) **Human Rights Campaign Federal Club in San Diego** - has invited THLA members to get together

Deferred.

(D) **Ethnic Relations & Diversity Committee Holidays Around The World Event:** Nov. 10, 2011 at Mintz Levin. Discuss:

1) Invitation to participate - voted in favor of participation

2) Food and entertainment contributions - deadline Oct. 14th - voted to authorize \$150 expenditure for food. Tom B. will purchase - his idea of providing desserts was well received.

12. **MCLE COMMITTEE:** status and update: Anita

(A) Solicit topic suggestions for MCLE programs - Tabled till Nov. Meeting. Board members to come prepared to discuss/suggest program topics and speakers. Anita to request committee members attend to provide an update and additional topic/speaker suggestions.

1) Financial Planning - Tom Ketelaar/Met Life - suggested by Anita

13. **BAR LEADERSHIP MEETING:** Report from Co-Presidents on first conference call on 10/6/11 Brief report given.

14. **HISTORY OF THLA:** Status report – Denise, Tom and Darren are compiling a history of award recipients, past officers and board members etc.

The committee will continue to work on expanding collected information, including past Board members, past presidents etc. The committee is planning to contact Paula Rosenstein, Bridger Wilson, Ted Roberts and other past Board members to see what historic info they may have. Denise and Tom will merge the info they've separately compiled.

15. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Megan

Deferred

16. **ENDORSEMENTS:**

(A) Nathan Fletcher - mayor (no CV or cover letter with required info received, no board attendance scheduled)

(B) Carl DeMaio - mayor (we have not yet received a CV or letter of request stating reason for requesting THLA endorsement and information relevant to our decision supporting endorsement. Only a bio provided.)

(C) Vallera Johnson - she's been notified of THLA required policies and procedures and that any future request will be considered at that time.

See notes above re Carl Demaio presentation and Board's subsequent discussion.

17. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. HOLIDAY PARTY - Todd Stevens and David Rubin offered to host (verified by phone during meeting). Tom also offered as an alternate location if needed. Dec. 16, 2011 selected as date for party. Anita to do save the date notice to membership. THLA t-shirts to be given away as party prizes.

B. BENCH/BAR BEACH CLEAN-UP - Anita announced the event planned for Nov. 5th. Loren to notify Lori Mendez of THLA agreement to co-sponsor at no cost. Only advertising to our members requested for co-sponsorship.

C. HATE CRIME IN RIVERSIDE - Shawn reported an incident involving a gay male student in Riverside who was beaten up approximately 1 year ago by members of a fraternity. The fraternity was sanctioned, but the victim wishes to sue for his serious injuries and humiliation. The incident became quite public in the area. He is seeking an attorney willing to take his case on a contingency basis. Shawn was given names of Board members interested in assisting to pass on to the victim.