

MINUTES

SOLO & SMALL FIRM SECTION COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

12 p.m. September 23, 2016
DeVos Place, Grand Rapids

Council: Mary Ericson (Chair), Tanisha Davis (Vice Chair), Lesley Hoenig (Secretary), Odey Meroueh (Treasurer), Michael Gunderson, Maury Klein, Elizabeth Silverman, Edward Sosnick, Joshua VanLaan

1. Call to Order at 12:12PM: 1) Excused: Josh Van Laan 2) Present: Mary Ericson, Michael Gunderson, Maury Klein, Elizabeth Silverman, Odey Meroueh, Tanisha Davis, Edward Sosnick Lesley Hoenig 3) Unexcused - None.
Members Present - Sign in sheet for members that attended the meeting.
2. Approval of Minutes for June 2016 meeting – Mike Gunderson moves Tanisha Davis 2nds motion to approve minutes– Minutes approved
3. Treasurer’s Report – Odey Meroueh – 13,038.26 – year to date balance. Membership has decreased by 82 but we have a current membership of 1605.
4. Chairperson’s Report – Mary Ericson
 - a. Sponsorship of YLS Event – Discussion about sponsoring YLS event. Proposal for sponsorship. Motion to sponsor YLS event in October for \$500 and ask in return for council members to attend, table to advertise section, listing as past and current sponsor at events, Mary Ericson Moved Tanisha Davis seconded. Motion approved.
5. Retreat Report – Tanisha Davis – Discussed some of the ideas discussed at the retreat to let the members know what the sections plans are for programming and to work with other sections to bring in more membership to the Solo Small Firm Section such as the YLS and Law School Section. Discussion of moving section meetings to other locations, at least to be skype friendly or around the state to allow members to attend. Discussion of Wine Down Wind Down Social event idea.
6. Newsletter Report – Joshua VanLaan – No report as Joshua VanLaan was not present.
7. Mentorship Program Report and Outstanding Achievement Award Presentation to Gary P. Bauer – Mike Gunderson –
 1. Presentation of Award to Gary Bauer – Gary Bauer was unable to be present, so his award will be awarded at the kickoff for the mentorship program. Mike Gunderson said a few words about why the award is being presented to Gary Bauer.
 2. Discussion about how the Mentorship Program will be working.

8. Opportunity for Gary P. Bauer to accept and speak – He was unable to be present so he did not speak at the meeting.
9. Election of Officers and Council Members – Mary Ericson – Mary Ericson provided procedure for nominations and paper ballots. Opened up Nominations. Vice Chair Tanisha Davis nominated by Mary Ericson for new term Michael Gunderson Seconded. Tanisha Davis Nominated Howard Lederman for the Council Maury Klein Seconded. Elizabeth Silverman nominated Gary Bauer to the council, Michael Gunderson Seconded. Elizabeth Ferguson nominated herself as she wants to be more active in what is going on, Michael Gunderson seconded. Adrian Cranford nominated himself and would love to be part of the council, seconded by Tanisha Davis. Nominations were closed.
10. New Business – No New Business
11. Program – Judge Edward Sosnick – Constitutional Cross Fire with Judge Michael Warren and Judt Elizabeth Gleicher.
12. Election Results – Elected Council Members: Tanisha Davis, Gary Bauer, and Howard Lederman

2016-2017 Officers:

Chair - Tanisha Davis

Vice-Chair - Lesley Hoenig

Treasurer - Odey Meroueh

Secretary - Mike Gunderson

Meeting Adjourned at 1:20 PM