

**MINUTES**

**MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL COURT REPORTERS**

**BOARD**

**Marriott Courtyard, Brighton, MI**

**Friday, April 16, 2010**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by President Valerie Rissi at 7:09 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

Valerie Rissi, President; Kelli Werner, President-Elect (by telephone); Paul Brandell, Vice-President; Candy Karr, Secretary-Treasurer; Sharon, Sweet, Senior Advisor, Donna Clark-Licari, Jean Ann Hamlin, Anissa Nierenberger, and Cheryl Anne Farmer, Executive Director

**SIGN ANTITRUST DOCUMENT**

Anti-trust agreements signed by Board members.

**MINUTES**

Motion by Jean Ann Hamlin to accept minutes of November 14, 2009, meeting; seconded by Paul Brandell; motion carried.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

President Rissi welcomed Board members and thanked all for being present.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Sharon Sweet moved we approve the other items of consent agenda and we take up Convention/Seminar, Fundraising, Membership, Testing/Education. Anissa seconded the motion. Motion carried.

1. Convention/Seminar Committee (Brandell, Werner, Clark)

Cheryl Anne Farmer reported she had made site visits to evaluate possible venues for our fall 2011 conference in the Detroit area. She recommended the Motor City Casino or the Greektown Casino and provided the Board with printed cost and site comparison. After much discussion on the pros and cons of each location, it was generally felt the Motor City Casino, because of the all-inclusive facilities (spa, nightclub, restaurants, foot court, casino) may be an more inviting location for attendees, especially those not familiar with the Detroit area. Cheryl Anne will check on a comp suite availability.

2. Fundraising Committee (Carmody, Daniel)

*MAPCR Store:*

Post-it Notes and drug speller books are now available in the store. A memo from Cheryl Daniels was received for a possible fundraiser (CA will send me a copy of the memo) It was agreed to refer that suggestion to Paul Brandell for follow up.

To clean out old merchandise, it was agreed it should be distributed to new student members attending tomorrow's seminar (cups, shirts, etc.). Flash drives are again a possibility as prices have come down. Val mentioned she had a clock with "steno" numbers that might be a possible store novelty item. Kelli suggested reusable grocery bags with steno on them. It was agreed the store needed to be restocked for the fall conference at Boyne.

*Cruise:*

Donna reported that the "Ovation" staff keeps contacting her to check on our interest in booking a MAPCR cruise. The survey suggested at the last meeting was never sent out to members to explore interest. It was decided this fundraiser will need to be put off until 2011 because of the planning time needed.

3. Membership Committee (Hamlin, Dexter)

Membership statistics reported by Cheryl Anne: 205 paying members; approximately 150 of those are freelancers/CART reporters. Our student membership is up since the free membership offer.

Over 1000 post cards were mailed out in March to non-member reporters in the State at a cost of around \$350. Anissa pointed out that we should have followed that mailing up with

personal phone calls within two weeks. It was decided that calling lists will be distributed at our summer Board meeting to contact non members encouraging them to consider membership and/or attending the fall conference.

4. Testing/Education (Gordon, Foster, Jordan)

Five test prep sessions have been held so far this spring, with one to go. Profit thus far is about \$2500 . Val suggested we consider doing more test preps in the fall, since it seems to be well received and is providing some needed income.

5. Record Times (Werner, Archambault)

Kelli is looking for a replacement Record Times editor.

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

See written committee reports submitted.

#### REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

1. Golf Outing (Moretti)

Planning for the June 11 golf outing at Bedford Valley, Battle Creek, is well underway, thanks to Pat Moretti and friends. Sponsorship letters and team sign-up forms were included in Board packets, as well as the subcommittee report.

2. Historian (Sweet)

Sharon Sweet asked the group to help find a new historian.

3. Website (Farmer)

Cheryl Anne is waiting to update the MAPCR store section to see what new things we purchase and what we have given away.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS and GENERAL ORDERS

- Paul will discuss the survey with Karen Carmody for interest in the cruise.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Cheryl Daniel and Pam Mocerri made a written and oral presentation to the Board on the problems being caused by third-party contracting in Michigan. They explained that Michigan has legislation prohibiting first-party contracting between, for example, a court reporter/firm and an attorney/firm, but there is no law prohibiting, for example, an insurance company contracting with a reporting firm to handle all their litigation, thus requiring a law firm hired by the insurance company to use their contracted court reporting firm. This practice is causing smaller reporting firms to lose the business of some of their long-term attorney clients.

Cheryl and Pam are asking MAPCR to pursue changes in the present legislation to stop third-party contracting and provide a penalty for violators.

Their specific proposal is:

- 1) To investigate by contacting at least three lobbyists to determine the feasibility of amending current legislation (including cost), and contacting and enlisting the help of other reporters and reporting firms whose businesses are being impacted; also documentary proof will need to be obtained.
- 2) To prepare a hand-out for the May Michigan Assn. of Justice meeting to educate attendees of the present anti-contracting legislation.
- 3) If a lobbyist is located and a plan and cost is determined, MAPCR would need a committee to handle this project.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Valerie Rissi moved the board go into executive session discuss this topic; Paul Brandell seconded the motion; motion carried.

At 9:18 P.M. the Board took a break.

At 9:22 P.M. the Board reconvened in executive session.

#### CONTINUED OPEN BOARD MEETING

At 9:34 P.M. executive session concluded, and Cheryl Daniel and Pam Mocerri were invited to return to the meeting room.

The Board members expressed their shared concern over third-party contracting, and suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee (to be a subcommittee under MAPCR's Legislation Committee) be formed to explore viable options. This would include gathering data, talking to lobbyists, determining costs and funding sources (including possible grants), and enlisting help from other reporters and reporter firms, preferably from various geographic locations in the State.

It was felt premature to provide MAPCR sponsored literature to attendees of the May Michigan Association of Justice meeting.

Also, it was stressed that Cheryl Anne Farmer's involvement with this proposed committee would be solely to provide requested information, since any extra work involved would be outside her contract.

Pam Mocerri indicated her intent to become a MAPCR member to be eligible to serve on such a committee.

A status report will provided at the Board's August meeting or before, if possible.

#### OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Our CSR proctoring volunteers, Felicia and Paulette, need help.

Val pointed out that MAPCR receives only about \$57 to administer the RPR. She wondered if we should just help with the CSR. Kelli suggested we appoint a committee including Felicia and Paulette and two others (under Testing and Education) to explore the proctoring situation. It was suggested someone talk to Tami Smith to see what the effect would be if we didn't monitor the RPR.

2. Monitoring MAPCR website. Donna will continue to monitor and cut and paste answers.
3. Free student membership was originally for one year. The question was raised how long we should continue free membership. Kelli pointed out that our student membership jumped from 35 to 100 in the last year, and 16 students are enrolled in tomorrow's seminar.

Anissa moved that student membership be free as long as the student is enrolled in a court reporting school and the school is listed on the application form. Paul seconded the motion; motion carried.

4. Concern over CER certification requirements was expressed (only ½ day training is currently needed take the CER test). Transcripts are being prepared by individuals and firms with unknown qualifications. Val asked the Board if she should express our concerns to the Board of Review requesting higher educational standards be set for CERS.

It was suggested that Val speak to MECRA first with her concerns and any follow-up be left in her discretion.

5. Woman's Lawyers Assn of Michigan sponsorship discussed; it was decided not this year.
6. Videotaping of seminar sessions was discussed. These might be streamed to the website for possible CEU points, and/or sold with the presenter's permission. The Convention Committee will explore.

#### REMAINING 2009-2010 MAPCR DATES

1. Record Times deadlines: April 25, July 25
2. CSR Exam, Wednesday, April 21, 2010, Hall of Justice, Lansing, MI
3. NCRA Chicago – August 5-8, 2010
4. Next Board Meeting, Saturday, August 28, 2010, 10:00 Whitehall, MI
5. RMR, RPR, CBC/PPP/CRR exam, May 1, 2010, Detroit, MI
6. Fall Convention, October 15 – 17, 2010, Boyne Mountain, Boyne Falls, MI

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting by Sharon Sweet; Paul seconded; motion carried.  
Meeting concluded at 10:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace M. Karr, CSR, RPR

Secretary-Treasurer