

MINUTES OF THE NABE COMMUNICATIONS SECTION MEETING
8:45 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007
Doubletree Hotel • Philadelphia, PA

Present

1. Mark Mathewson, Illinois State Bar Association; chair
2. Francine Walker, The Florida Bar; chair-elect
3. René Eichem, Kansas Bar Association; secretary
4. Kevin Ryan, Vermont Bar Association; treasurer
5. Carol Manning, Oklahoma Bar Association; immediate past chair
6. Jenna Grubb, Toledo Bar Association
7. Kelley Jones King, State Bar of Texas
8. Mark Tarasiewicz, Philadelphia Bar Association
9. Jill Werner, ABA Division for Bar Services
10. Adrienne Cornwall, Philadelphia Bar Association
11. Barbara Straczynski, New Jersey Bar Association
12. David Beam, Chicago Bar Association
13. Cheryl Dodd, The Florida Bar
14. Jennifer Mason, State Bar of Georgia
15. Sarah Coole, State Bar of Georgia
16. Johanna Merrill, State Bar of Georgia
17. Joyce Hastings, State Bar of Wisconsin
18. Marilyn Cavicchia, ABA “Bar Leader” Magazine
19. Christine Cendagorta, Washoe County (NV) Bar Association
20. Christine Morganti, State Bar of New Mexico
21. Howard Kaplan, ABA Division for Public Education
22. Colleen Danz, ABA Division for Public Education
23. Duane Stanley, Hennepin County (MN) Bar Association
24. Iris Ito, Hawaii State Bar Association
25. Debbie Weixl, ABA Media Relations
26. Julie Hankin, Oregon State Bar
27. Patricia Leake, Tarrant County (TX) Bar Association

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by Mark Mathewson, chair.

Minutes

Kevin Ryan moved to approve the minutes of Aug. 9, 2007; Carol Manning offered the second. The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report – Kevin Ryan reported the section’s account balance as of Sept. 19 was \$37,590.37 (the balance at the end of FY06-07 was \$16,294); he noted this does not include all the Workshop income or expenses. Income from membership dues for the 247 current members of the Section was \$7,080; the Communications Section is the largest section in NABE, which has 650 members total.

Chair’s Report – Mark thanked Mark Tarasiewicz and Adrienne Cornwall for the exceptional Workshop and for all their hard work (applause ensued). He then explained the Section’s strategic plan, which is a blueprint for the future of the Section and has three goals: (1.) continue to be a great source of professional development for members, (2) increase member engagement and give entry points for people to serve, and (3.) help the section play a larger role in NABE itself. He noted that another Section goal was to revamp the Web site in order to communicate, archive, and share information. Mark also reported that the executive council was looking for hosts for the 2009 Workshop.

Membership Report – Jenna Grubb said Section membership was now at 247 (an increase of 11% over the last two years); 55% are state bar members, 40% are local bar members, and 5% are ABA/other bar type members. She also said the Membership Committee will be conducting short surveys and/or polls of Section members in the near future.

Luminary Awards – Mark reported that this was Ken Brown’s final term on the Luminary Awards Committee, having served a two-year term as vice chair followed by a two-year term as chair. Former vice chair Barry Kolar will now serve a two-year term as chair, and a vice chair will be selected to serve a two-year term as well. Francine noted that her subcommittee was looking at shortening the two-year terms to one-year terms because of the

time commitment and it precludes the chair and chair-elect from submitting entries. Mark also noted that the council was considering adding an “e-publications” category.

Anne Charles Award – Francine reported that there was no Anne Charles Award recipient this year since no names were submitted for consideration.

Wally Richter Award – Chris Cendagorta reported that Dan Cirrucci was given the Wally Richter Award; Dan will chair next year’s Richter Award Committee.

Web Site Report – Mark Mathewson reported for Veronica Cordova and said the Web Committee would be reviewing and making updates and additions to the Section’s site. Carol Manning noted that we should put the strategic plan online for everyone to view.

Newsletter Report – René thanked volunteers for signing up to write articles about Workshop sessions and said she would e-mail all volunteers the following week with deadlines, etc.

Educational Programming Report – Mark Mathewson reported for Cynthia Kuhn in her absence. He said Cynthia had two Section programs scheduled for the NABE Midyear Meeting in Los Angeles in February.

Scholarship Report – Mark Mathewson reported for Cynthia Kuhn, chair of the Scholarship Committee, that two Workshop scholarships had been awarded in the amount of \$500 each.

Sponsorship Report – Christine Morganti reported that last year’s Workshop brought in \$13,000 in sponsorships; the goal this year was \$18,000, but the Sponsorship Committee brought in \$20,000. Christine thanked Francine Walker for bringing in the “heavy hitters,” and she noted that they had 12 new sponsors this year. Next year’s sponsorship committee chair will be Adrienne Cornwall.

Workshop 2007 (Philadelphia) – Mark Tarasiewicz said that there were 100 people registered for the Workshop this year, including 19 new workshop attendees. He extended special recognition to Christine Morganti and to Adrienne Cornwall (applause ensued). He reminded everyone to fill out their evaluations and to write articles for the Section newsletter so those who couldn’t attend the Workshop could read about it.

Workshop 2008 (Austin) – Kelley Jones King said the 2008 Workshop will be held October 21- 25 at the Hyatt in Austin, Texas, and they are actively recruiting program committee members.

DBS Report – Jill Werner suggested that Section members become more involved on the NABE board as there are eight committees and volunteers are always needed. She noted that vice chairs of committees are chosen by the president of NABE and then automatically advance to chair. She said there would be three positions open on the NABE Board of Directors in January, including State Bar Director, Local Bar Director, and Member at Large; she encouraged anyone interested to consider running and noted that you only needed five signatures to run for office (one signature per page faxed to Jill). Last, she reported that DBS was working with outside vendors to put together a content management system for the NABE Web site, which would allow member representatives to update/populate/maintain the Section Web site.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
René Eichem, secretary