

## LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS

### MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**MAY 18, 2023**

**7:30 A.M.**

**VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE AND AT THE LCL OFFICE**

The Directors in attendance included: Chair Caitlinrose Fisher, Chair-Elect Andrew Mohring, Treasurer Katherine MacKinnon, Secretary Jennifer Anderson, Past-Chair Hon. Lawrence Johnson, Kendra Brodin, Benjamin Carpenter, Grace Chanin, Hon. Martin Fallon, Amanda Harrington, Matt Holson, Fritz Knaak, Justin Page, Jude Schmidt, and Chase Webber.

Executive Director Joan Bibelhausen and Administrative Assistant Annette Erbst were also present.

Chair Fisher called the meeting to order at approximately **7:35 a.m.** A quorum was reached at that time.

#### **Items Requiring Board Action/Discussion:**

Approval of Minutes

Affirmation of Board email decision to submit LSAC proposal

Financial Statements for March and April

LCL Breakfast

LSAC Proposal

Committee Reports

#### **ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

- 1. APPROVAL OF THE March 16, 2023, REGULAR MINUTES.** Upon a motion made by Fritz Knaak and seconded by Hon. Lawrence Johnson, the Minutes of the March 16, 2023, regular meeting were approved.

- 2. Chair's Report**

Chair Fisher expressed gratitude to the board for a successful year. Chair Fisher, Chair-Elect Mohring, and Joan Bibelhausen met with Justice Chutich, LCL's liaison to the MN Supreme Court. The proposal to LSAC was discussed. The board voted electronically last month to submit the proposal with the changes as discussed. Motion made by Kate MacKinnon to affirm the prior email decision to submit the LSAC proposal. Second by Andrew Mohring. Motion carried.

Chair Fisher reported on the Executive Director review process and an update on transition planning. One benefit of the review is to use it as a tool to determine what is working well and what are the strengths of the organization. The board is considering engaging the services of Propel Nonprofits to assist with the transition.

Chair Fisher then recognized and thanked those board members who are rotating off the board following their terms, Hon. Karen Asphaug, Fritz Knaak, Hon. Richard Kyle, and Chase Webber. A round of applause was given by those present.

- 3. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer MacKinnon reported on the organization's finances, highlighting the Stepping Up Breakfast report which shows a positive gain from the event, not just monetarily but also in effective public awareness. Motion to approve the March and April financial statements by Fritz Knaak, Second by Matt Holson. Motion approved.

#### **4. Executive Director's Report**

Joan mentioned the importance of strategic transition in an organization and expressed a desire to support and mentor someone to take over leadership. Joan reviewed the activities reports and noted that LCL is projecting an increase in the number of people served (on track to exceed 400) compared to the previous year. She noted that the number of other legal professionals served didn't increase significantly, but there was a rise in the number of non-admitted law school graduates working in related fields receiving LCL services. Positive outcomes resulted from the Stepping Up Breakfast and plans to contract the same event planner for next year are underway. Joan provided updates on rule changes including changes in bar application questions and proposed rules related to wellbeing CLE credit and maternity leave. The MSBA Rules Committee has created a succession planning subcommittee to address resources and protocols for practitioners closing their practices due to disability or other reasons. There is a need for guidance in such situations, and Joan will serve on the Committee.

#### **5. Committee & Task Force Reports.**

**4.1 Education Outreach** – Kendra Brodin provided a quick update on behalf of the education and outreach committee. An updated elevator pitch and a one-sheet document on “How LCL Can Help” has been sent to the Board and is on the board portal. The committee collaborated with Joan and Judie to refine the statement. Kendra also mentioned working on participation surveys to determine how board members would like to serve as ambassadors for LCL. About 50% of the board members have completed the survey, and the remaining members are encouraged to do so. She emphasized there are various ways to be involved, including updating LinkedIn bios, sharing information with interested parties, and potentially speaking at law schools.

**4.2 Finance & Fundraising** – No report beyond what was previously presented.

**4.3 Nominations & Governance** – Amanda Harrington, chair of the committee, presented the Resolutions for Adoption by the LCL Board of Directors. Reducing the number of board members to make the board more effective has been discussed, therefore selective recruiting was applied to fill open positions for the 2023-2024 slate. Harrington discussed individuals nominated for election to the LCL board. This slate will be presented to the members at the June annual meeting. The slate of officers is Chair: Andrew Mohring; Chair-Elect: Jennifer Anderson; Treasurer: Katherine MacKinnon; Secretary: Amanda Harrington; and Past-Chair: Caitlinrose Fisher. The resolutions were moved to a vote by Chair Fisher and adopted.

**4.4 Cases & Intervention** – Grace Chanin and Andrew Mohring presented the committee report. The focus of the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> was on determining the ideal committee size and membership. It was suggested that having around 15 members would ensure at least 10 attendees per meeting. The committee discussed strategies for recruiting new members who met certain criteria, such as having a strong recovery program and a specified period of sobriety. Exceptions could be made depending on the individual and their involvement with LCL. LCL staff selected potential candidates from the list of treatment center volunteers. Eight potential members were identified, and their profiles were reviewed during the second committee meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The committee members agreed that all of them would be good additions, and LCL would reach out to gauge their interest and availability. Confidentiality is a crucial aspect of the committee's work due to the sensitive and personal nature of the discussions. There will be an additional confidentiality agreement for committee members. Andrew Mohring stated the primary function of the committee is to assist LCL and case management and to offer a longer course of support for people. It also is one of the greatest opportunities for volunteers to be engaged in the process, as part of their own recoveries.

- 6. Other Business and Upcoming Events.** Upcoming events listed on the agenda were highlighted by Joan Bibelhausen. Joan presented information from an American Lawyer a survey of the profession regarding mental health.
- 7. Motion to Adjourn.** Motion to adjourn by Fritz Knaak, second by Matt Holson. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Jennifer Anderson  
Secretary

Next Regular Meeting: July 20, 2023, 7:30 a.m. Hybrid – in person preferred.