

KMJA Board Minutes

Board Meeting
March 11, 2024
Zoom

Members Present:

Andrea Bekemeyer - President
Keith Drill - President-Elect; Northeast Director
Greg Nickel - Treasurer
Jennifer Jones - Past President
Daniel Love - Southwest Director
Leslie Beims - Northwest Director

Meeting called to order at 4:05 PM

Minutes Approval:

Dan Love made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2024 minutes; Leslie Beims seconded; approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Greg Nickel provided an e-mailed financial report earlier today. Our financial position remains excellent. No formal report or approval required.

2024 Conference:

OJA: Van Printy has retired from OJA. Our contacts there will now be Mike Chichowicz and Lana Goetz. They are working on conference preparations and the registration e-mail has gone out. Keith Drill commented he had received it from his Clerk and found the links to the conference registration and hotel to be very efficient.

Welcome Reception: Andrea Bekemeyer reported that OJA is no longer providing the Sunday evening 6:00-7:00 p.m. welcome reception (with hors d'ourves and cash bar). Consequently, we won't have the surplus trays to take up to the Hospitality Suite, although we will be bringing in some additional snacks. We'll also work on getting the Hospitality set up asap on Sunday.

Monday Evening Dinner: Bekemeyer reported on details for the Monday night dinner and activity at the hotel. Given the registered vs. appeared numbers for last year's off-site event, we hope to see significant improvement with an on-site dinner and entertainment. It was agreed to start about 5:30, in order to allow attendees time to depart the conference, freshen up and return for dinner. Discussion occurred regarding buffet vs. selected entrée options, based on a pricing schedule Bekemeyer circulated earlier. It was agreed to provide a buffet, and the consensus was to include three entrees - a honey-glazed chicken, London Broil and salmon selections.

Discussion occurred with regard to providing two drink tickets per person with the cash bar, which might cost as little as \$718, depending on final numbers. Additional drinks beyond the two could be purchased by attendees at cash rates on the schedules. Drill moved to approve expenditure for two drink tickets per person; Love seconded. Approved unanimously.

Trivia: Drill will handle the trivia contest/prizes. Bekemeyer reported the PowerPoint should be finished shortly. She will ask Jason Maxwell if he can pick up the gift cards, as he has in past. Drill offered to do so if Jason cannot.

Hospitality Suite: Will be handled by Jason Maxwell and Katie McElhinney.

Awards: Discussion of who is eligible for Fred Benson awards based on the membership roster. Nickel is verifying names from all sources so that he may order the awards. Jennifer Jones was nominated for the Michael Barbara award. *Jennifer subsequently expressed her reluctance to accept, indicating that others fit the criteria better. *** Also, per the January Minutes, it was noted that nominations would be put out to the whole KMJA membership***.*

New Business:

Membership: Discussion undertaken with respect to membership numbers and best practices for disseminating renewal notices. Data circulated by Nickel earlier noted a reduction in membership since 2019. He observed that e-mail communication to individual judges, court administrators and Court Clerks has been used since COVID and has worked well, but numbers are down. The consensus was that sending a hard copy mailing, in addition to e-mail renewals, would be worthwhile, as we presume some courts/members respond better to written mailings. Bekemeyer, Drill and Love offered to assist Nickel in preparing and sending a mailed renewal notice. There was also discussion of asking members at the conference what their mailing preferences were as OJA's conference survey wouldn't be an appropriate vehicle to gather that info.

Lobbyist: Drill reported on the recent e-mail exchanges with/among Legislative Committee members, Board members and other Judges regarding bills in the Legislature popping up for hearing this year leaving very little time for input or preparation of testimony from members. Legislative Committee Chair Judge Karen Torline recently reported to some Board members (by e-mail) that the Committee had looked into engaging a lobbyist last year, but the costs were prohibitive. Discussion included asking the League of Municipalities if it could watch out for bills that might be of interest to our organization in the future, as all of our cities are members. Love also suggested inquiring with the District Judge's Association about their lobby efforts and offered to contact an officer representative to do so. Drill will make contact with League Executive Director Nathan Eberline and a representative of the Magistrate Judge's Association.

Next KMJA board meeting scheduled for **April 15, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.**, by Zoom

Drill moved to adjourn; seconded by Love. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes taken by Keith Drill.