

**VICTORIA BAR ASSOCIATION
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE OF APRIL 19, 2007**

Meeting at the Fireside Grill called to order by Kerry Simmons at 5:05 pm.

Members present:

Kerry Simmons	Brooke MacLeod
James Legh	Nisha Bathe
Richard Stewart	Sue Wishart
Michael Cooper	Noel Lenaghan
Roxanne Helme	Andrew Petter
Menaka Giri	Scott Farquhar
Kismet Bhandar	Charlotte Salomon
Renee Miller	Joan Young
Eugene Raponi (guest)	John Waddell (guest)

1. **MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2007 meeting by Nisha Bathe, seconded by Brooke MacLeod – carried.

2. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

- a. MEMBERSHIP – Kerry Simmons advised that the VBA currently has 355 paid up members;
- b. PAST CORRESPONDENCE – No new correspondence
- c. VICTORIA CALL CEREMONIES – the March call went well – VBA supplied ample food and refreshments. Next call ceremony June 7
- d. SWEARING IN CEREMONY – Bracken J. will be sworn in as a Supreme Court justice at the courthouse on April 23, 2007. Kerry Simmons will speak at that ceremony. A dinner will be held in Duncan that night for Bracken J.

3. **VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Scott Farquhar advised that:

- a. he would get a notice out advising that the deadline for award nominations will be September 30, 2007.

4. **TRESURER'S REPORT:**

- a. Michael Cooper reported that the bank balance stands at \$11,803.69 as of April 19, 2007, but that the balance included \$4993.75 of the revenue from the Battle of the Bands which is for the Lawyers Benevolent Fund.
- b. Eugene Raponi and John Waddell explained some of the costs associated with the Battle of the Bands and requested that the VBA top up the contribution to the Lawyers Benevolent Fund. Motion by Jim Legh to add \$1,000.00 to the contribution to the Lawyers Benevolent Fund, seconded by Scott Farquhar, Carried.

5. SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR:

- a. Roxanne Helme advised that 102 members were attending the Spring dinner.
- b. Charlotte Salomon reminded members that the Lawyers/Accountants golf tournament would be on June 1, 2007 and that many accountants but not many lawyers were signed up. The beneficiary of the tournament proceeds this year will be the Vancouver Island Head Injury Association. The Vancouver Island Head Injury Association does not yet have its charitable status and is counting heavily on the proceeds from this tournament and is supplying volunteers and prizes. There will be a silent auction (auction items requested) and prizes for all participants; and
- c. The Deep Cove Chalet dinner will be on June 14, 2007

6. SPEAKERS SERIES: Charlotte Salomon reported:

- a. the huge response to the series to date, and the preference given to VBA members has enabled Charlotte to sign up half a dozen new members; and
- b. Topics of interest to solicitors are invited for future dates.

7. CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES: Nothing new to report.

8. COURT LIASISON: Kismet Bhandar reported that Jim Ryan (the Courthouse security guard) has keys and a 2003 list for barrister's lockers. Kismet has agreed to request (in a mass email) law firms to confirm their use of barrister's lockers, the number of keys that they have and their locker numbers. Lockers were previously charged out at the rate of \$50.00 per year.

9. LAW DAY: Kerry Simmons reported that next Law Day proceeds on April 21, 2007 and:

- a. She invited volunteers to contact Nisha as help is needed;
- b. She advised that there would be many participants including, judges, CBA members, Dispute Resolution Center staff, police (dog show at 12:30), library staff, collaborative law advocates, and a cake in the criminal section to celebrate the charter's 25 anniversary.

10. WEBSITE AND EMAIL: Nisha Bathe advised that she would be away in May and June and Scott Farquhar volunteered to deal with any mass emails that are required.

11. NEWSLETTER: Jim Legh advised that a Salt Spring Island law firm wanted to advertise for an associate and was prepared to pay \$100.00 for the ad. Motion by Noel Lenaghan that the ad and the \$100.00 be accepted, seconded by Sue Wishart, carried. Jim reported that the next newsletter will come out at the end of April – submissions, information, news tidbits are invited.

12. BENCHER'S REPORT: Richard Stewart reported that:

- a. Katherine was out of town to participate in an awards selection committee for the Viscount Bennett Fellowship for Legal Studies;
- b. The Benchers have narrowly passed a motion to engage in a pilot project designed to stem the flow of female practitioners out of the profession. The program will initially involve some level of forgivable loans to support single women practitioners during maternity leave;

13. CBA REPORT: Members were reminded that the CBA would be hosting a wine and cheese reception at the Ocean Pointe Hotel on April 20, 2007 to introduce Caroline Nevin – the new executive director to members.

14. UVIC REPORT: Andrew Petter advised that:

- a. UVic has now posted the full time assistant for the Career Development Officer position;
- b. UVic is interested in setting up a Victoria based reception to provide another opportunity for firms to meet students;
- c. Funding is now in place for a communications officer position and that person will likely be able to provide some UVic content for the Praecepte;
- d. An increased level of funding for the Law Center is now in place for the next 3 years from the Law Foundation and the Attorney General's ministry.
- e. A national search will begin soon for a new dean for the law school – Andrew advises that the “old relic” in that position now gets to sail off into the sunset;
- f. The law school will be establishing a National Aboriginal Economic Development Chair to advance all issues around aboriginal business development and opportunities;
- g. The law school grad program is being expanded from 12 LLM and Phd students to 18 students; and
- h. This year's convocation is on Friday June 8, 2007 between 2 and 4 pm.

15. NEW BUSINESS – Scott Farquhar raised Katherine Berge's previous suggestion that the VBA President's term be a 2 year term. Michael Cooper suggested that it would then take 8 years to go through the full cycle of positions on the “ladder”. The general consensus was to not further discuss this issue and leave the president's term at its present length.

16. ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 5.55 pm.