



**Coastal Inn of Court
Board Meeting 4/26/2021**

Board Member Attendance: Abby Saunders; Honorable James Lockemy; Dominic Starr; Natasha Hanna; Ian Maguire; Melissa Frazier; Karolan Ohanesian; Mark Nappier; Pete Hearn

I. Call to Order & Welcome by President Abby Saunders

Abby Saunders thanked everyone for their hard work to keep our Inn robust. She noted it was quite extraordinary that we have been able to stay connected with our membership during this pandemic and the great job all of the pupillage teams have done with fantastic programming this past year with the membership being more invested.

Additional thanks to Judge Lockemy for the tremendous success of our joint meeting, which is believed to be the first ever South Carolina statewide Inn of Court joint meeting. Interestingly, there were 218 people in attendance for this event featuring the 218th Anniversary event of Marbury v Madison.

II. Platinum Status Update

Karolan Ohanesian provided an update on Achieving Excellence Platinum status. Currently we only need to submit the following items for us to obtain Platinum status:

- Outline of our mentoring efforts & evaluation process (Deadline June 30th)
- Description of our community outreach program (Deadline June 30th)
- Current Inn news (Deadline ongoing - within 60 days of event)

Abby Saunders will work on the mentoring efforts and Mark Napier will draft a description of our community outreach program. Natasha Hanna and Abby Saunders will work together on putting together a summary of our historic statewide meeting. Discussion was had about also submitting a summary of our Adopt-a-Barrister meeting with Colin Witcher, a Barrister in the Crime and Regulatory Group at Church Court Chambers in London, England.

III. Treasurer Report

Melissa Frazier provided a financial update of our current status. A majority of the membership have submitted their dues and she will follow-up with those she has not received payments. The Board had previously decreased membership dues across the board in light of the pandemic and concurrent reduction in meeting costs. Reduced dues of \$300.00 for private attorneys and \$150.00 for Judiciary and Public Sector employees this year still provides excellent value to our membership since the dues are commensurate with the average costs of a 6 hour CLE which the members receive through attendance. We will re-evaluate these dues next year.

IV. Community Outreach

Mark Nappier discussed the Freedom Readers outreach project that helps hundreds of at-risk elementary school students in Horry and Georgetown Counties. These students have been hit particularly hard during the pandemic and are looking to build a library of twelve duplicate books for kindergarten through fifth grade so

that tutors and scholars working remotely can read the same book. The estimated cost of this project is \$1500.00. The Board unanimously approved funding this project with funds saved from the Inn's reduced meeting costs during the pandemic.

Mark will submit a more detailed description of our community outreach program for submission to the National Office as part of our Platinum status requirement. He will also see if we can photograph the presentation of our gift to Freedom Readers for submission as Inn news to the national office.

We are hopeful that we will be able to participate in the Special Olympics and/or Alzheimer's Walk once things get back to normal.

V. Bylaws Committee

Natasha Hanna and Ian Maguire presented Bylaw revisions to the Board which were discussed and approved. Discussion was also had of limiting membership to roughly the top 10% of attorneys practicing in Horry County. Revised Bylaws attached.

VI. Banquet

With the Covid numbers beginning to decrease, the Courts re-opening and vaccine availability for those who wish to have it, the Board felt it was important to give our members an opportunity to gather. Discussion was had about kicking off our Fall season with a banquet.

VII. Fall 2021 Meetings

The Board is excited and hopeful about resuming in person meetings in the Fall. The consensus was that Sam Sneads was an excellent location for holding these meetings that our members seem to enjoy.

Adjourned