

Minutes of International Law Section quarterly board meeting on 10/26/2017

Mimi took attendance: Stephanie, Treasurer; Beth, Secretary; Brian Murphy; Judith Wood. Michelle is not on, Angelica is on, David Wemhoff is on, Heather can't join, Roger Kobert is not here, Susan Kilgore is present, Warren Burke is on, Judge Murnane is here, Judge Siebert is not on, Toni Jaeger-Fine is not on, Ridgway is not on the call. No law school liaisons were on the call when the meeting began, but one emailed during the meeting.

The 2017-2018 program welcome was given. We have an exciting year ahead, with a major effort to reach out to law schools. There are currently four law school liaisons.

1) Membership

Susan Kilgore, membership chair, gave her report. The statistics show that membership is declining slightly. 275 today (end of Sept). June report was 281, July was 277. We want to increase membership.

For September, 2017 we have one new member. With regard to membership dues, 16 are due, 13 are past due (technically expired, grace period). Five members dropped out. This is not necessarily a reflection on the section – FBA membership may or may not include section membership.

There was a discussion next about board members contacting new members. Susan thinks it's a good idea, and is a proponent of personal contact. Every new member is happy that someone from the section calls. The practice has been that the Board is the membership committee, and Susan's job is administration. The Board reaches out to lapsed or new members. Brian was the national membership chair but has reached out recently. It doesn't take a lot of time. When you reach someone they're surprised and happy. Outreach is the most effective thing.

Email Susan with cc to Mimi if you are willing to help. Angelica says the direct cold call approach hasn't worked, she prefers targeted email. She has contacted every batch Susan has sent.

2) Treasurer's report.

Roger joined the call. We have a new treasurer, Stephanie. She read the statement ending Aug 31 - \$330 with total expenses of \$34. There is an increase of \$296 in the fund balance. The current balance is \$11,376. This is where we started last fiscal year. There's a column for August and for 2017.

Brian asked whether this reflects travel expenses for the convention. It does not.

The September 30th report will be sent by the end of the week. Make sure we submit the budget by December 1st to national. We have a sample, and need to follow up. The group should develop criteria for sponsorships, donations. E.g. we gave \$500 matched by FBA national to hurricane relief. We have limited resources. We may need discussions on caps in budget re donations for ad hoc events, and how much we want to devote to potential sponsorships.

Each year around the beginning of the fiscal year, national withdraws what it needs, the second week in October, \$6 per member. This will appear on the November financials, on the October 30th statement. Last year it was around \$1700, and it will probably be similar this year. This comes off our funding up front and will be recouped as dues get paid, it gets rebuilt. The \$11k cash number is high by \$3,000 to \$4,000. We're probably closer to \$7,000. The administrative fee was \$1,632.

3) Newsletter report.

Heather can't join. She is the newsletter editor and publishes four issues of *Global Perspectives*, the quarterly newsletter. Heather is currently seeking input. There is an opportunity to publish in the quarterly newsletter. Make sure programming activities are published with a summary and photos. The newsletter won the highest award from the FBA for newsletters nationally.

We will edit the *Federal Lawyer Magazine* theme issue in May, 2018. We have six 4,000-word articles, and other 2,000 to 4,000-word articles. It's an opportunity for high-profile publication. We took on five-section columns throughout the year. If anyone is interested in having an opportunity to publish in one of the columns, send an email to Mimi.

Heather did a great job.

4) Report from the annual meeting.

There was a great section event. Many Board section members were present. The program was recognized. Center for Disease Control issues were addressed. Ray Dowd had a program in the next room on repatriation of Nazi art. Many applications go in, and we were selected. We had a business meeting and a meet and greet. Brian gave thanks to the Board members.

Policy 9-3: limitations on service of officers, exec board members. We had disagreeing points of view. There was a helpful meeting of sections and divisions. Mimi had gifts. Mimi thanked Brian for his work last year on behalf of the FBA and the section.

The next annual meeting is in September, 2018 in New York. Mimi hopes for a high profile at that program.

5) Vacant board positions:

International banking and finance and law school liaison outreach are vacant. The most recent is Beth – she talked about BU law and the Fletcher school for outreach.

6) Conferences:

The lawyer's division recorded nationally in September. Internship announcements were made regarding the defense intelligence agency. Information was sent to student members. There was a report on conference networking event on September 15th at the conference. The program was high quality. Warren and Michelle were involved.

On October 30, people in the New York area can attend the Court of International Trade program.

Mimi is working with the Intellectual Property section to sponsor a program outside of the patent office, and is talking with national to figure out work with national. Mimi is working with the SDNY fed bar chapter to organize the third New York asylum conference. It is a program for reenactment of a Supreme Court case, and Judge Denny Chin will help create the reenactment. 30 participants as actors will reenact the case at Fordham Law School, and will provide contacts for the case with photos and handouts. Susan Kilgore may visit, and is interested in observing or participating.

Brian is working with UVA – next Friday alumni will go to Virginia Law and meet grads to talk about careers in public service and private practice. People found it helpful – the program is November 3rd. The section does well in reaching out to law students and law schools. We would like to extend this around the country.

Prakash Katri organizes programs in DC for the FBA, and is interested in helping us participate in some monthly immigration law luncheons; he invites notable speakers to present. This is a possible co-sponsorship opportunity.

Warren, Brian and Matt are organizing the International Conference on Legislation and Law Reform on April 12th and 13th at American University. He invites people in 13 countries, and many speakers from the U.S. The speaker list is impressive. As soon as the speaker list is solidified it will be shared with the Board. Mimi wants to initiate an email regarding financial costs and planning regarding budgeting.

7) Consultative Status.

The U.S. Consultative Status application was submitted to the UN to ECOSOC, the body that considers applicants for this honor and responsibility. We're still in the queue for the decision on whether we will be accepted. FBA national will decide on dissemination of the passes. The International law section and the SDNY chapter were involved.

8) Positions taken:

We're sometimes invited to state positions on decisions that FBA national is considering making. There is an issues agenda where several times a year we may be invited to respond either to a position that we may want the FBA to take or to respond and submit our position. It's a great opportunity for law students to help shape the organization regarding critical issues facing the legal profession.

9) New business:

Outreach to law schools was discussed. Beth wants to reach out to BU. Judy was invited to speak at BC and Pepperdine. She will advise people to join the FBA. Mimi offered to be a joint sponsor. The program is November 13th at BC. Mimi asked Beth to be included regarding the BC conference.

Law Reform Projects.

Judy wants to work together with other legal bodies to revise the refugee definition and the asylum process. It doesn't fit the current world situation. She is writing a paper on the interplay between international humanitarian law, the war of law, and international human rights/refugee law in light of the current world situation. The definitions don't really fit; it's an antiquated situation which has changed. Judy is writing an article on revising the refugee process for the May *Federal Lawyer* magazine. It will be published in the *Federal Lawyer*. She will reach out to the editor.

Susan Kilgore thanked Judy for pitches for membership at the programs in November. Brian offered congratulations and welcome to other colleagues.

10) Meetings:

The large board meeting for the entire board is only quarterly. The International Law Section officers meet monthly; we will get an email when we get the next meeting. We meet as a whole in a few months. The next monthly Executive Board meeting is November 30th at 11:30. The next Executive Board meeting is January 25th at noon.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 pm ET.