

FLA ANNUAL AGM – MINUTES OCTOBER 26, 2010

1. Barb Kristanic (BK) reviews Minutes from 2009 AGM:
 - a. Sheila Mackinnon (SM): motion to approve
 - b. Gary Gottlieb (GG) seconds
 - c. All in favour. Motion passed
2. Mary Reilly (MR) reviews Treasurer's report: bank balance as of October 31, 2010 - \$4,165.52 (attached)
 - a. Floor opened to questions regarding report
 - b. Renuka Satchithanathan (RS) questions cost of FLA involvement in 311 Open Bar Series?
 - c. Sara Wunch (SW) advises that cost is minimal - \$5 approx
 - d. Paula McGirr (PM): motion to approve Treasurer's Report
 - e. GG seconds
 - f. All in favour. Motion passed.
3. SW advises the Board that Garry Lamourie (GL) is withdrawing from the Board
4. SW advises that the following members are seeking re-nomination:

Katharina Janczaruk (KJ), Gina Al-Sewaidi (GAS), PM, BK, Cynthia Mancina (CM), MR, Lisa Johnson (LJ), Victoria Starr (VS), GG, SW, and Jean Hyndman (JH)

 - a. SW suggests that a motion should be put forward, asking that the above slate be put forward as one unit for re-election
 - b. Motion made by SM
 - c. RS seconds
 - d. All in favour. Motion passed
5. SW opens the floor to further nominations:
 - GG nominates Lorne Israel (LI) – seconded
 - Robert Shawyer (Rob S) nominated by MR
 - CM seconds
 - GAS nominates RS. Seconded by Rob S
 - nominees leave room for closed vote by those in attendance
 - Motion passed re LI
 - Motion passed re Rob S
 - Motion passed re RS
 - nominees re-enter and SW congratulates all new Board members

6. SW provides update on past years' activities:

- summarises involvement of the members in the planning and implementation of the education programs at 311 Jarvis
- advises that members have attended multiple meetings, as part of ASLA and also as part of our own association, representing members on issues related to LAO;
- advises that MR sits on Transformation of Family Law Committee (dealing with the 4 Pillars);
- advises that our members have been very involved with the paralegal issue, which will be an important issue on an ongoing basis:
 - o despite our past success, there is movement afoot to change the rules by unbundling legal services and allowing paralegals to provide specific, limited services. Further response and action will be required;
- Board members sit on various Bench and Bar Committees, and have made efforts to improve the courthouses:
 - o Example: making wi-fi and printers available at various courthouses;
- advises that FLA is involved with the 311 and 47 Sheppard Education Series (SW thanks VS for all the efforts she puts into these programs)
- advises that the FLA is invited to make submissions on important issues such as the review of ethical and procedural issues re unbundling legal services.
- FLA has been asked for input into Integrated Domestic Violence Court - will be providing input on what types of cases will be heard in the Court.
- provides update on the success of the recent FLA social. SW thanks the Social Committee (PM, GG, VS). The Social resulted in our membership being tripled.
 - o SW opens floor to questions:
 - RS inquires as to membership figure
 - VS response: 155 (approx)

7. PM introduces Guest speaker: "Dancing as Fast as I Can"

- discusses the stress that lawyers in family, criminal law and immigration law take on from their clients – results in Vicarious Trauma (VT)

- Lists examples of stressful cases
- Such stress manifests itself in following areas: neurological, emotional and spiritual.
- Characteristics that increase stress (of lawyers):
 - Perfectionism
 - Conscientiousness
 - Needing control
 - Delaying gratification
- Strategies to avoid VT:
 - establish non-negotiable boundaries
 - look to peers
 - follow basic health rules
 - focus on spiritualism
 - focus on self-approval and self-trust
 - turn to OLAP: 24 hours, free and completely confidential (unless serious misconduct).
- Floor opened to questions:
 - PM – is there a maximum service allotment re OLAP?
 - A: though there is a 4-6 hr maximum, creative methods are used to re-open the same file
 - GG asks if lawyers are difficult to help/crack?
 - A: people call when they are in trouble, so they are open
 - RS: would like FLA to provide assistance
 - Speaker suggests a peer support group within FLA – offers to assist in set-up
 - VS: suggests option of expressive therapy, relaxation course, counselling at St. Mikes, November 18 – Women’s Group holding a session at OBA on Toronto Street.
 - Peel lawyers have a program whereby junior lawyers can ask senior lawyers to lunch to discuss files
 - various lawyers then go on to share their own personal experiences and suggestions

8. VS provides an update on the unbundling of legal services issue:


- a. Advises that LSUC recently sent out an email advising that it is considering a review of the Rules regarding unbundling of services, and has asked FLA to provide input into the issue.
 - b. Upon a review of LSUC correspondence, VS and CM concluded that LSUC had already changed the rule and was really looking for editorial commentary. VS suggests that by providing comment, FLA would lend legitimacy to the idea of unbundling legal services, which will in turn lead to paralegals eventually providing family law services
 - c. VS proposes that instead, FLA should send a letter advising that it will not participate in a process that will lend itself to legitimizing paralegal entry into family law.
 - d. Seems to be consensus among members present tonight with this approach. No need for motion at this time. Defer letter to Board meeting
9. CM provides a report on the Integrated Domestic Violence Court:
- a. Judges will be dedicated to manage criminal and family law cases. Both cases will be heard by the same judge
 - b. the idea: a holistic approach looking towards an early resolution.
 - c. Process will require the consent of all parties.
 - d. Appears that this may get going in May, 2011.

Floor opened to questions:

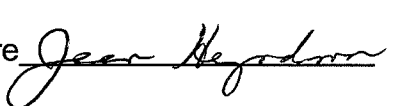
- Q: any plans for such a court in child protection? (MR)
- A: not at this time. Test first.

10. Brief discussion ensues regarding FLA Membership: recent discussions have arisen whether membership should be pro-rated or last for twelve months from the date of joining - to be discussed at future meetings

11. PM motion to adjourn meeting
- a. GS seconds
 - b. all in favour. Motion passed

Chair's Signature 

Date Nov. 23/11

Secretary's Signature 

Date Nov. 23 / 11