

Vermont Bar Association
Board of Managers Meeting
Thursday, May 17 picking up late in the meeting
Via Zoom

G. Staff reports:

Kim Velk: Reported on CLE programs that were scheduled for “Procrastinator’s Month” in June. She also noted that the CLE schedule for the Annual Meeting at Lake Morey on Sept. 27 was largely filled.

H. Vermont Bar Foundation Report: Judith gave the report. There were questions about the ask from Legal Aid to the Bar Foundation. They are seeking a large amount of money with what seems a inordinate amount devoted to overhead. Judith noted that the VBF board planned to follow up with legal aid on this point. Judith mentioned that they were beginning to look for a new executive director for the VBF. Josh asked why the VBF and VBA were separate entities. Rich said it was a longstanding distinction and that the VBF job entails the need to be able to raise funds from donors, which is a particular skill. Judith mentioned that there might also be accounting reasons for having separate entities. The VBF had a retreat planned in June where they could look at this question of combining entities. Lisa Campion mentioned she had worked with an organization that had done something similar.

4. **Action Items**

A. Enrollments: Were unanimously approved.

B. H 629— Bob spoke about a committee that was being formed to study tax abatement pursuant to this bill. The VBA was asked to nominate a candidate for the committee. Bob noted that real estate section chair Jim Knapp has been involved and studying this issue. Josh recommended Jim for the spot on the committee. Alan Bjerke had also expressed interest. Rich Cassidy suggested that Alan would be good for the job. Discussion ensued, including some of the run-ins with the law that Alan has had. A vote was taken, and seven members voted for Jim and Rich voted for Alan. Bob or Judith planned to reach out to Jim to let him know.

C. Succession Planning: At the next meeting the Board will deal with revising some language in the constitution so that the associate director is named as next in line to the executive director, rather than the director of education and communication.

5. **Discussion**: Josh talked about planning for the Retreat in June. He is working on the agenda and the meeting will include some Board education, some fun and activities. Bob said that pre-retreat, members would receive a questionnaire and the ABA Bar Board Member Expectations and Responsibilities. Josh also mentioned that ABA President Mary Smith would be in Vermont on June 26 and Josh and other Board members were invited to Woodstock to meet with her.

6. **Executive Session**: None needed.

7. **New Business**: None

8. **Old business**: None

9. **Adjournment**: There being no further business to discuss, on motion to adjourn and unanimously agreed.

Respectfully submitted:

VBA Staff

