

**MICHIGAN GUARDIANSHIP ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the Board Meeting

January 18, 2008

State of Michigan Library

702 W. Kalamazoo

Lansing, MI

Board Members Present: Diane Brown, Sue Darling, Michael Dombos, Sister Marie Kopin, Marcia Smith, Donna Erb, Ron Lantz, Pat Fosdick, Carol Henny ( via phone ), Charlotte Bieri ( via phone )

Board Members Absent Excused: Alicia Chapman, Neelum Puri

Board Members Absent: Mike Fraleigh, Georgia Callis, Dawn Jacobs.

Consultant: Barb Fisher

Guest: Steve

Administrator's Report

Report was given before Board was called to order due to a lack of quorum.

See attached

Web site has been improved and is being updated. Board is urged to look at the web site for recommendations for future improvements before the next board meeting.

Payment for DVD's is up to date.

Conference Logistics

Board members that had volunteered to recruit speakers for the spring conference did not confirm speakers. At this point only three speakers are confirmed. This will cause the conf. brochure to be late going out and social work credits will not be available because there is not time to get the program approved.

Eight more speakers are needed for spring. Steve, Barb and Diane will contact more individuals. Information must be to Barb by January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Charlotte will send Vendor packets to Diane and Barb for consultation.

Call To Order: President Darling called the meeting to order at 10:24.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve agenda as presented

Moved: Diane Brown

Support: Sister Marie Kopin

Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Moved: Donna Erb

Support: Sister Marie Kopin

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as presented

Moved: Diane Brown

Support: Sister Marie Kopin

Motion carried.

The price scale for vendors for the spring conference is:

Exhibitors - \$500.00

Bronze - \$600.00

Silver - \$750.00

Gold - \$1,000.00  
Emerald - \$1,500.00  
Platinum - \$2,000.00

Charlotte is aiming for \$10,000.00. The board appreciates her efforts. Discussion was held on if an exhibitor is also presenting, does that release that company from paying for a table? Barb explained that the charge for a table is \$300.00 but the cost to MGA is \$50.00. Ron feels that this could be setting a bad precedent. There was no concrete resolution.

#### Lobbyist Report

Georgia was not present for report. Barb has been in contact with Noah who is trying to get an update on the disconnect between the guardianship fee being back to \$60.00 and DHS. Not all guardians are receiving the \$60.00 at this point but the \$45.00 it had been reduced to. Barb will email the board when latest update is received.

#### Communications

None

#### Committee Reports

##### Education

See above conference logistics

##### Legislative

Michael presented four House Bills, 5186 – Guardian Ad Litem would have to report to the court if there are assets of over \$15,000.00 and could allow a conservator to be appointed.

5187 – This bill would prohibit a conservator from mortgaging a home without Court approval.

5188 – A conservator would have to be bonded if a small estate exceeded the estate threshold.

5499 – A Bill of Rights for the Protected Individual. It was explained by Steve that this bill could change quite a bit as he had met with Sen. Jones who now has a better understanding of guardianship and what it entails.

The committee recommended supporting House Bills 5187 and 5188 and remains neutral on the other two.

Motion: The Board accept the recommendations of the committee

Moved: Michael Dombos

Support: Donna Erb

Motion approved.

This motion allows members of MGA, if contacted, to say that we support the Bills in their present form.

Michael suggested that a letter be written to the proper committees regarding the Bills, Ron suggested delaying this until the Bills are formal. No motion was made.

#### Communications

See Web site report

#### President's Report

None

#### Old Business

Diane presented a revised version of the National Guardianship Association contract. There were some minor word changes. Previous contract was signed by Sue on December 7,2007.

Motion: President Darling signs the revised contract for submission and clear documentation.

Moved: Ron Lantz

Support: Michael Dombos

Motion approved.

Ron reported on the By-Laws. He feels that there are some minor changes and adjustments that need to be made. The committee ( Ron, Mike, Alicia ) will have them ready for the March meeting as the Board must vote on the changes first before they can be presented to the membership as a whole.

#### New Business

Discussion on where the Board can hold meetings as it appears that we will not be able to use the OSA office. Sister Marie had three suggestions, Ron will check on the Kellogg Center. Meetings will continue to be held at the State Library until another avenue can be found. Many of us would like a place that has food, and must have a speakerphone. Any ideas, after being checked, out should be sent to Sue.

Charlotte would like anyone who has ideas of vendors to email the information to her.

Remember to bring auction items to the Spring Conference.

Donna will not be present at the March meeting. Either Michael or Sister Marie will take minutes.

**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE MARCH MEETING  
MEETING WILL BE MARCH 14 NOT MARCH 21.**

Motion to adjourn at 11:35

Moved: Michael Dombos

Support: Pat Fosdick

Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted

Donna J. Erb  
Secretary

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

### Membership

Month	Paid Memberships
January 2008	142 <sup>3</sup>
November 2007	141 <sup>3</sup>
September 2007	118 <sup>3</sup>
July 2007	108 <sup>2</sup>
May 2007	135 <sup>1</sup>
March 2007	118 <sup>1</sup>
January 2007	114 <sup>1</sup>
September 2006	79
July 2006	63

<sup>3</sup> organizational memberships

Note: 52 delinquency letters sent on May 23<sup>rd</sup> - 20 didn't renew

### Newsletters

Month	# of Newsletters Sent
December 2007	235
September 2007	228
June 2007	199
March 2007	211 <sup>1</sup>
December 2006	206
September 2006	197 <sup>2</sup>
June 2006	126 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Last newsletter sent to delinquent members

<sup>2</sup> Judges [95] added to mailing list

### Spring Conference

Year (Location)	Participants	Exhibitors	Net Gain
2008 (Shanty)			
2007 (Shanty)	76	9	5,348.23
2006 (Crystal)	59	8	1,007.61
2005 (Weber's)	86	8	2,359.91

### Fall Conference

Year	Participants	Exhibitors	Net Gain
2007 (Bavarian)	85	10	3,071.64
2006 (Clarion)	55	13	4,371.05
2005 (Clarion)	48	11	1,403.51

### Website

Spring Brochure not available. Board minutes posted. Bulletin Board established on Home Page. Upgrade website versions.

### DVD Sales

Since November: 1 since last report