

New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators

Board of Directors Meeting - February 28, 2019

Via Zoom

Minutes prepared by Felicia T. Farber, Secretary

Present:

Officers

Gabrielle Strich, Esq., APM – President

Carl Peters, P.E., L.S., P.P., C.O. – Executive Vice President

Virginia Maroulakos-Rucinski, Esq, APM – Vice President

Tam Abitante, Esq. – Treasurer

Felicia Farber, Esq., APM – Secretary

Carl Cangelosi, Esq., APM - Immediate Past President

Directors

Richard Steen, Esq., APM

Suzanne English, MA

Lynn Norcia, Esq.

Mitsu Rajda

Ben Feigenbaum, Esq., APM

Absent:

Hon. Bradley Ferencz (Ret.)

1. Call to Order: 9:40 PM
2. **Motion to Amend & Approve 1/24/19 Minutes** with Suzanne English & Tam Abitante's names removed as assistants with spring conference + Spelling of Rick Steen's name corrected, **Approved** Unanimously
3. It was noted that Judge Ferencz has not been present for any board meetings this term. Gabrielle will ask him if he wishes to continue serving as a board member
4. Gabrielle: New board members need to sign conflict of interest form (applies to Tam & Felicia)
5. Reports:

- A) Treasurer Tam Abitante –No change- we’re ahead by \$52,000 but not sustainable. Discussion of accounts that need to be deleted
- B) Gabrielle – Upcoming events: Spring Conference - June 15; Annual Conference – Nov 16 (Mitsu will assist) Topic “Making Mediation Your Day Job”; Nothing to report yet re. divorce apprenticeship
- C) Gabrielle-General Meetings: Good turnout for 2/27/19, Next general meeting 3/27/19 at Law Center – Speaker Beverly Stout “How to Avoid Economic Mistakes in Mediation”. Discussion of an additional General Meeting end of April 2019
- D) Marketing Committee: Need Chair
- E) Membership: Suzanne English unable to get our membership numbers off of our site. We presently have approx. 245 members. Gabrielle will send email re. renewal
- F) Website- Gabrielle: Up and running. Everyone needs to update their profile. Carl: We need a point person to save us money. Motion by Carl C, Seconded by Gabrielle:
Motion to make Suzanne English Chairwoman of Webmaster Committee, assisted by Carl Peters. Approved Unanimously
- G) CLE Report- Mitsu Rajda: Nothing to report
- H) Webinars-Carl Cangelosi.: February webinar canceled due to difficulties with Donna & Kelly of C-3. Next webinars: March 2019 - Michael Lehner; May 2019 - Tam

6. New Business

- 1) **Proposal 1:** Carl Cangelosi: Too expensive to continue with a management company. We should explore whether to use cheaper alternatives like bookkeeper, answering service & low-cost person for technical services. Carl & Tam would assist on committee. Proposal withdrawn
- 2) **Proposal II:** Carl Cangelosi: What are we going to do as result of retreat? Need volunteers to lead follow-up. Felicia will send email to general membership launching mentorship program
- 3) **Proposal III:** Felicia: Request for NJAPM to submit letter of support to NJ Supreme Court in regard to proposed rule change to decrease free hours provided by NJ Roster Mediators.
Approved unanimously. Lynn will prepare letter and circulate to Board
- 4) **Proposal IV:** Mitsu: NJAPM should conduct monthly mock trials. Idea favorably received
- 5) Somerset Baseball Outing: Date: August 1, 2019 Fireworks Night

7. Meeting adjourned at 11: 30 AM