

**New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators**

Board of Directors Meeting - March 28, 2019

Iselin, NJ

*Amended 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

**Directors**

Richard Steen, Esq., APM

Suzanne English, MA

Lynn Norcia, Esq.

Mitsu Rajda – by phone

Ben Feigenbaum, Esq., APM - via Zoom

Hon. Bradley Ferencz (Ret.)

**Absent:**

Carl Cangelosi, Esq., APM - Immediate Past President

1. Call to Order: 9:55AM
2. **Motion to Amend & Approve 2/28/19 Minutes (revised version).** Motion by Suzanne English & Rick Steen, Seconded Felicia Farber, **Approved** Unanimously
3. Gabrielle Strich: Marv Schuldiner reported that he broke even on March 2019 civil mediation training. We need above 12 attendees to be profitable

4. NJAPM Meeting Agendas & Minutes should be posted on website going forward
5. GS requested a P&L sheet for large events (trainings & conferences) from C-3
6. Tam Abitante raised prospect of co-sponsoring events with AFCC (Association of Family and Conciliation Courts NJ Chapter). She requested notifying NJAPM members of an upcoming AFCC annual meeting and program on 4/16/19 re. Settlement-Based Custody Evaluations. Discussion ensued about allowing advertising of AFCC event on NJAPM listserv & website. Outcome: NJAPM will announce induction of Tam as Treasurer and Lynn Norcia as Board member at AFCC's next event
7. Reports:
  - A) Treasurer Tam Abitante –NJAPM has \$43,892 Income. Administration biggest expense= Budgeted for \$40,000/year. C-3 charges approx. \$3,333/month. QuickBooks online subscription is \$40/month. Webmaster support services= 4.25 hrs most recent activity (\$234). Postage=\$17/mo. C-3 has numerous upcharges. C-3 will only respond to emails up to a fixed time/amount per month. C-3 charges for ConstantConnect. Lynn: **Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report**. Seconded by Judge Ferencz. **Approved** Unanimously. *AMENDMENT*: Board cannot APPROVE Financial Report. Board can ACCEPT Financial Report
  - B) General Meetings-Gabrielle: "Avoiding Financial Errors in Divorce Meeting" on 3/27/19 had 12 attendees. For future meetings, we need membership list for people to sign in. We presently operate on honor system trusting that people have paid. Next general meeting: April 24, 2019 –we'll present a "Mock Mediation." Location TBD. May 22, 2019 will be "Impasse" program with panelists. Judge Ferencz suggested presenting a joint program with Middlesex County Bar & obtained approval. Their programs are held at the Middlesex County Courthouse. Board members who have connections to county bars should reach out to them
  - C) Upcoming events: Spring Conference - June 15, 2019. Somerset Baseball Outing: Date: August 1, 2019 Fireworks Night. **Motion to Co-Sponsor ADR Day on June 5, 2019** by Felicia Farber. Seconded by Rick Steen. **Approved** Unanimously.
  - D) Marketing Committee: Need Chair. Gabrielle will post request on listserv
  - E) Website- Gabrielle: Problems- It doesn't interact w/ data; As a member you need to go through a portal to get different prices than non-members; Membership list needs to just be list and not tied into "Find A Mediator;" The hyperlink to "join NJAPM" is hard to find under Quick Links at the bottom of the site. Richard Harris wants \$4500 more – he currently charges \$250/mo to host & maintain. Carl P made **Motion to Give Executive Board Authority up to \$2000 to Fix Website**. Seconded by Rick Steen. **Approved** Unanimously. Suzanne English will ask her computer savvy daughter to review website & advise as to cost to fix.
  - F) Divorce Apprenticeship Program - Gabrielle: There's an online form to be a mentor. You use mentees' office. Cap \$200k gross income between parties for them to be eligible for reduced cost program.

- G) Mentor Program: Board agreed that this name is confusing because of Apprenticeship Program and a new announcement using name Ambassador Program (previously approved by Board) should be sent to membership
- H) CLE Report- Gabrielle: CLEs helped with attendance at last 2 general meetings. No action to report
- I) 2020 NJAPM Spring Conference: Date chosen =April 25, 2020. Lynn will call Imperia to reserve date and get contract

8. New Business

1) **Proposal 1:** Anju Jessani: To change NJAPM's fee policy on 40 Hour training course. Currently \$1550 if paid 30 days before course. Can reserve for \$300 non-refundable deposit. **Motion to offer NJAPM members \$250 savings for a maximum of 3 seats, first come, first served, one week before the upcoming spring 2019 divorce seminar.** Motion by Gabrielle. Seconded by Lynn. **Approved** Unanimously *only* for this spring's seminar.

2) **Proposal II:** Gabrielle Strich: To Change NJAPM's apparent policy prohibiting a board or officer position from being advertised or included in a bio/CV. **Motion to Revoke Prior Policy & Remove From Website.** Motion by Suzanne English. Seconded Lynn Norcia. **Approved** Unanimously.

9. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM