

Minutes Southern Section Membership Meeting

September 16, 2014

Tunica, MS

The Sectional meeting of the ABA was called to order by SVP Birnell Hatcher at 1:12 p.m. The Agenda was approved with the addition of "New Business". Bernadine Rice moved that we accept the Agenda with this addition. Motion was seconded by many and carried.

Richard Banks rendered the invocation. Minutes of the January 19, 2014 meeting were read by the Secretary. There was a correction to the minutes. Leatrice Bell read a letter presented to her by Olivia Green from the Birmingham Club recommending Cheryl Ransom as the nominee to receive the Merit Award. This correction was duly noted and entered into the minutes. Kathryn Bowers moved that this correction be added to the minutes and approved. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote. It was noted that though the minutes are published in the Southern Exposure (online) they are not approved until the membership votes to accept them. It was noted by many that there are numerous members who do not have access or use the computer; therefore, they are unable to read the minutes. SVP Hatcher informed members that she had asked the Secretary of each club to print copies of the minutes and to distribute same to their members.

Eugenia Weaver, an at-large member, requested that the SVP send all information relating to the Southern Section to ALL at large members.

Nancy Roberts Evans implored members to encourage all members (especially new members) to attend and participate in local, Sectionals, and National meetings in order to keep abreast and participate in decisions that affect the ABA and its membership

Treasurer Richard Banks distributed his report. He thanked the membership for being steward of money for a year. He answered questions regarding the balance on hand, and other questions. Leatrice Bell questioned the expense SVP Hatcher incurred at the Summer National held in Atlanta, July-August, 2014. SVP stated that these expenses were justified as she had to travel and pay hotel expenses. The Treasurer's report will be filed for review.

SVP Hatcher gave her report. She proudly She stated that the Southern Section has the largest membership in the ABA. She announced that Margaret Pulley Johnson has been appointed Editor of the ABA Bulletin. She also commended Rosetta Boyd for doing an excellent job as Webmaster for the Southern Section.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Merit and Life Membership

Leatrice Bell began her report by stating that there have not been any nominees for Life Membership or Merit Award. She implored members to look around their clubs and to submit nominees for these awards. Information regarding qualifications and applications are posted online. Selections will be made at the January meeting in 2015. Johnnie Saunders commended Leatrice for doing an outstanding job as chairperson.

Staff Development

James Brown presented this report for Chairperson Shirley Williams. The report included the promotion to Level 2, Directors Tolliver McKinney of Memphis, Helen Rice of Nashville, and Gloria Simmons of Atlanta.

Scholarship

Olivia Green was not present to give her report. Her report was distributed to the membership. Gloria Christler questioned the availability of first year renewal. She stated that she was told more than once that there were no openings, yet a new first year recipient was reported.

Election Committee

Chairperson Vernice Whitfield began her report by stating that she and members of her committee had followed the procedure as outlined in her report (see attachment). Further, she had requested a list of members who were eligible to vote from Headquarters. Headquarters provided her with a list. The ABA Bulletin shows a list of 579 members. Secretary Knowlton stated that her list shows fewer than 480 members who have paid section dues. The results of the election are attached.

A lengthy discussion ensued; some of the questions/concerns are listed however there were other issues and concerns.

Question: Why doesn't the number of votes balance with nominees?

Answer: Some voters elected not to vote for all officers.

Question: Why was there not a rented P.O. Box for mailed ballots?

Answer: Election Chairperson stated that she had been instructed by SVP not to secure a box.

Concerns:

- There was no announced site or time for on-site balloting. Some members from the area were denied the privilege of voting because of this snafu.
- There was no cutoff eligibility date for members to be financial in order to vote.

In addition to the recommendations outlined by the Election Chair, these recommendations are presented:

- That future voting procedure be established well before the election
- That the established procedure be voted upon by the membership
- That June 20,2016 nominations of officers for 2018 be made

NEW BUSINESS

There is a need for publication of a new directory for the SS.

A list of Section officers and committee chairs is published in fall issue of the Southern Exposure.

The most recent draft of changes to the By-Laws be shown on line.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by:

Edith V. Knowlton, Recording Secretary

Birnell Hatcher, SVP