

MEETING MINUTES
VLRE Board of Directors
October 22, 2020

Present: Laura McVay, Matt Rossettini, Jenny Grove-Bradshaw, Jonathan Bolls, Kristin Walinski, Lee Smallwood

Ryan McDonald was introduced and spoke to the Board about his background as a federal attorney and history with mock trial and forensics/ debate. He was voted in as new At-Large Board Member.

Second At-Large board member candidate who was under consideration was not present and a motion was approved for this candidate to be voted on at the next meeting.

Chairman Lee Smallwood proposed two committees which, by motion approved, were formed. First, a finance committee; and second, a fairness committee. Jenny Grove-Bradshaw and Ryan McDonald volunteered to participate on the Fairness Committee, which may grow by one to three over the coming weeks.

Laura McVay is exploring the possibility of qualifying VLRE and Mock Trial for CLE Continuing Education credit for attorneys interesting in serving as scoring judges for the mock trial competition. The CLE credit would be focused on Virginia state and Federal Rules.

Secretary Jonathan Bolls reported that the Virginia Law Foundation has approved a \$20,000 grant, which has been secured through the help of Kristin Walinski. VLRE will be placing a VLF logo on its website.

As per Executive Director Matt Rossettini, his wife Jennifer will be stepping down from the Treasurer position, so the organization will be looking for a new treasurer to replace. Aside from the \$20,000 grant from VLF, the organization has an operating budget of \$6,941.14. Each of the teams this year (total 15) took advantage of the discounted rate of \$150. The following expenses are expected this year:

- \$5500 Regionals Competitions
- \$6500 State Competition
- \$4000 National Competition
- \$1500 Offsets
- \$500 Awareness
- \$2000 Video in Support of a CLE Class

Additionally, Matt Rossettini reported that \$9000 would be needed for development of a Competition Management System software to assist in the new reality of virtual hearings; and \$4,000 to run the system from a central video room from Charlottesville.

Matt put forth the name of a possible software developer to create the management system: M. Paul Telcamp. The idea is that that the software designed could be patented and then licensed out to other states. All would be run electronically including scoring, team ranking, and eliminating conflicts. There would be real time scoring on phones, visible to parents and coaches as well.

Matt explained that due to the Coronavirus restrictions, there has been a 1/3 dropoff in the amount of teams signing up throughout the country, which is approximately the impact to Virginia.

A discussion ensued on how best to go about contracting with a software developer. Jenny Grove-Bradshaw brought up the importance of ensuring there is a clear Scope of Work in any contract, which may benefit from any IT expertise already on the board. Jenny Grove-Bradshaw will be speaking with youth at the National Speech and Debate Association, which already has some of the virtual capabilities set up, and may have an opportunity to speak with them about VLRE.

The Board decided to take some time to explore options in regards to this and the \$14,000 expenditure and have another meeting in less than a month.

Ryan McDonald offered that he has a background in computers. Laura McVay mentioned also that she had an experience in the past involving a software engineer scope of work dispute, which may prove useful in avoiding pitfalls.

Having a backup plan for the regionals and state competition was discussed, in the event anything goes wrong with the software program.

Lee Smallwood suggested we wait until after the November school board election and give the board a chance to discuss informally and then be in a better position to make a decision in 3 weeks.

Matt Rossetini requested of the Board to create a budget committee, a judges committee, and a software committee. Lee Smallwood plans to reach out to those afterwards who may be interested in volunteering.

Secretary Jon Bolls agreed to put together a Contact List for the board.

The board agreed that it is a goal to have the software up and running for the March state competition, if it is unable to do so for the February regionals.

Lee Smallwood referred to a program for youth run through the National Assoc. of Crim. Defense Lawyers that he will be attending and will get the word out about VLRE's existence to the participants, since there is a lot of overlap with what we do.

There being no further business, a motion was agreed to have a follow-up meeting on the date and time below and for adjournment.

Next Meeting: November 19 7pm
October 29, 2020

BY: /s/ Jonathan B. Bolls
Jonathan Bolls

VLRE Secretary