

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Elderlaw Section
May 16, 2008
New Mexico State Bar

The Annual Meeting of the Elderlaw Section was held May 16 at the Bar Center, a little later than the noticed time of 11:30 a.m. Many attendees were delayed because I-25 was closed to regular traffic to allow the passage of hundreds of northbound motorcyclists. Sometime after noon, the meeting was called to order.

The meeting was chaired by Section President Brian Jennings. Present at the meeting were Section Members: Mary Ann Baker-Randall, Shannon Bulman, Fletcher Catron, Frank Dickson, Mary Ann Green, Charles Gurd, Claude Jack, Lucrecia Jaramillo, Susan Margison, Lynn McKeever, Lori Millet, Susan Page, Mary Smith, Pat Stelzner, and Diane Strader.

The Chairman and the members took a moment to acknowledge the passing of Dwight Hurst who has been amusing us with musings that only resembled the Secretary's minutes of our section meetings. His minutes brimmed with good-natured humor even when the meetings themselves were a tad drab. Dwight died on March 16, 2008 at the age of 61. (In my amateurish attempt to respect his legacy, I write these minutes with a grin on my face and a wink at propriety.)

Resolution to honor Dwight Hurst. Upon the motion of Mary Ann Baker Randall, the members voted unanimously to make a charitable donation in memory of Dwight in the amount of \$250. Mary Smith volunteered to contact Dwight's family to find out their preference of a charity.

The Continuing Financial Crisis. The Chairman stated that the only item that would be on the agenda if we had an agenda would be the looming question regarding the Section's unresolved financial dilemma. Although we have tried to offer scholarships and give-away deals, we have not been successful in depleting our treasury. We are only allowed to carry over \$2,500 from year to year without submitting a request to the Bar Association about why we need it. A rather loose discussion followed in which the Treasurer Mary Ann Green explained that we had budgeted over \$3,000 for scholarships and a social event and that we had not spent the money or made plans to do so. We had offered to send a speaker to the Bar Convention. But there ain't no takers on that generous offer of paid travel and air-conditioned accommodations in Arizona in July. Scottsdale is the site for the Annual Convention of the New Mexico State Bar (and die-hard lawyers' golf tournament!).

Patricia Stelzner said that the annual National Aging and Law Conference is happening in December in Washington DC and she hopes there may be scholarships available for it because she believes people will want to go from the SCLO. There were also suggestions for bringing in outside speakers to do a CLE, though it would probably have to be for 2009 (but then we would, at least, have justification for carrying over our slush fund). Hopefully the Board will get some good suggestions in time to act on them.

Election of Replacement Secretary. Somewhere in the middle of our rambling discussion, as the lawyers were politely taking turns talking and thinking that we were "on the record," it occurred to us that our secretary had died. No one was taking notes. We urgently needed to revive the Office of Secretary. Chairman Jennings called for nominations, and the banter would not subside long enough for a fool to volunteer. Who wanted to walk in Dwight's shadow? The group not only wanted jokes at the meetings, they demanded memorable tales and yarns written into the minutes for them to read later – and to enjoy in a stand-up performance at the next meeting. Even with so many of our members dreaming of taking their talents on American Idol, it was hard for anyone to see a career path to stardom beginning with election to

the office of Elder Law Section Secretary. Finally, re-connecting with her youth that was lost to volunteerism and having become completely oblivious to winning peer approval, Lynn McKeever volunteered to act as secretary. Mary Ann Baker Randall quickly moved for Lynn's nominations and Mary Ann Green seconded. Election was by voice vote with no one voting "nay" and Lynn McKeever will fill out Dwight's term, whatever that is.

Alas, it was only then that your humble Secretary began to take notes . . . just when there was nothing left to say. So all of the preceding was captured from my aging memory and conversation with my cronies Mary Ann and Pat. Other members' comments and corrections are welcome.

As people got up to move into the auditorium for the annual CLE sponsored by the Section, it occurred to someone to move to adjourn the meeting. The time was 12:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be July 1 and it is open to all Section Members.