Huntsville Madison County Bar Association

Minutes for Wednesday, September 4, 2019

Jeremiah Hodges began his reign as President as a result of a seemingly-fair election which resulted in an altogether-acceptable transition of power.

President Hodges asked Rich Raleigh to give the invocation. While not exactly Ricky Bobby from the hit movie Talladega Nights, Mr Raleigh gave a quite-serviceable prayer and the festivities began.

President Hodges asked if anyone had read the minutes from the previous meeting.

The assembled gawked in fascination at the audacity of the question.

Hearing no response, President Hodges asked if anyone would approve the Minutes from the last meeting.  In a brazen attempt to secure his mention in the Minutes, Chris Lockwood moved to approve same. Mr Raleigh, in a technical breach of etiquette given that had already staked out some ground for himself with the invocation, seconded Mr Lockwood’s Motion to Approve.

The question was called. Seeing few options, President Hodges reluctantly agreed to accept a shrug and/or a slack-jawed stare as a vote in the affirmative and the minutes passed.

That hurdle crossed, the committee reports began.

Our new Treasurer, Trey Woodfin, gave his report. As it involved large sums of money to which the recording Secretary had no right, the Secretary’s interest waned and began imagining himself winning a fantasy football trophy this year.

Several members of the Young Lawyers section were present, but apparently none felt empowered to speak on behalf of the group since Tyler Mann was out. Hence, the YL’s section provided no report. Honestly, no one seemed all that spun up about it.

In a delightful turn of events that really seemed to pull the meeting out of the morass, the Madison County Voluntary Lawyers Program’s Executive Director Nicole Schroer  told us that Hillary Armstrong has joined the group and will be helping with consumer bankruptcies in North Alabama. This was met with more than a few congenial nods and a bit of polite applause.

President Hodges then turned his attention to guests. He began this debacle under the apparent assumption that there would be at least one guest at every table.

Spoiler alert: No one who is not already a member of the HMCBA wants to attend HMCBA meetings. Except those who want to join.

Lauren Smith introduced Stephanie Gushlaw. Brian Clark introduced Patt Canady. John Brinkley introduced Ford King. All three are awaiting their bar results. All three seemed pleasant. Someone muttered well wishes.

Next came the speaker as arranged by Vice President, Paige Banks. President Hodges introduced Gabby Helix, a domestic violence and sex crimes prosecutor. She told the assembled about the new laws affecting sex crimes, abuse of minors, and a variety of domestic situations. While not exactly the most uplifting continuing legal education topic, we all at least got some CLE credit out of the deal.

Ms Helix’ speech was well-paced and informative. As a consequence, she received a more-than-perfunctory round of applause.

President Hodges adjourned his first meeting without the need for law enforcement intervention, which, in turn, led to the Secretary losing his $5 bet to Circuit Judge Donna Pate.

Eric Artrip

Secretary