

HUNTSVILLE MADISON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
Minutes for Wednesday, January 8, 2020

Jeremiah Hodges opened his fourth meeting as President. There were some murmurs before the meeting started that President Hodges had stepped up his suit game.

President Hodges asked Judge O'Dell to give the invocation. He was pretty solid. The Secretary noticed that Will League was looking around the room when he was supposed to have his head down and his eyes closed. However, this will not be mentioned in the official minutes.

President Hodges asked if anyone had read the minutes from the previous meeting. Doug Martinson moved to approve them even though he knew they were pretty jacked up. Judge Tuten seconded the Motion; he can honestly be forgiven because he surely never read them. The question was called. The minutes passed. Those minutes are now part of the official HMCBA archive. The Secretary smiled pleasantly, but did not gloat.

Treasurer Trey Woodfin gave his report. The Secretary, for the first time ever, scribbled furiously and got the totals for the various accounts down. The Secretary wondered if/when it will dawn on the Treasurer that he has access to \$397,456.12. Smart cash says we will not see Woodfin after he reads these minutes.

President Hodges called for guests. Much like the talk show host from the 70's and 80's, Phil Donahue, he began walking around the room microphone in hand. Some were genuinely entertained by this schtick, others were visibly infuriated.

Regardless, the following guests were introduced:

Isabella Menci by Judge Hundley

Tim Reynolds by Judge O'Dell

Shakira Gilbert by Greg Revera

Martin Day by Judge Coats

Tracy Daniel by Taze Shepard

Johnny King by Mark Debro

Cathy Arrington by Mark Debro

Daniel Roach by Mark Debro

Everyone seemed pretty sore at Debro for bringing three guests, but he didn't seem to care and sort of enjoyed rubbing our noses in it for being slack.

Executive Director Cindy Seally said something about recruiting young lawyers at Cumberland School of Law and the University of Alabama School of Law. She spoke too fast. The Secretary was unable to stop looking at Instagram quick enough to get it down. It was probably pretty profound.

Tim McFall moved to admit the following new members:

Rainer Park

Isabella Menci

David Owens

Shakira Gilbert

The lawyers were all admitted to the HMCBA. The applause, while not exactly thunderous, was polite and robust enough to make the new members feel as though we aren't just interested in getting their dues.

The Young Lawyers told everyone they are hosting a happy hour at The Martin from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the following Friday. David Holt kept trying to catch someone's eye to finagle an invite. It made most uncomfortable.

The YLs are also hosting a "Donuts with the Judges" on March 5th at 7:30 p.m. The Secretary saw Judge Pate pass Judge Hundley a small slip of paper. Intrigued, the Secretary watched Judge Hundley like a hawk. After the meeting, the note was surreptitiously retrieved from the trash. It read: "Suing Ivy and Strong if we don't get OT."

There was a call for someone to tell us something about insurance. The membership cringed. No one volunteered. President Hodges, seeing the meeting was heading for the ditch, informed the assembled that "we have new dental" and quickly steered away from the subject altogether. Disaster averted.

Everyone agreed that the HMCBA's Last Chance Seminar was not a complete flop and was, in fact, pretty well done.

Nicole Schroer with the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program announced a Family Law Seminar Clinic on January 24th, and a "Lawyers in the Library" event. She didn't really explain the second thing, but no one wanted to look stupid and ask. As a consequence, most of assembled smiled placidly.

Ms Schroer announced that three board members would be leaving. She then facilitated the transfer, along with Taze Shepard, of a big, both figuratively and literally, check from IOLTA to the MCVLP in the amount of \$113,500.00. The applause was genuine.

Next came the speaker as arranged by Vice President, Paige Banks. Chad Emerson, the President of Huntsville Downtown, Inc., spoke. He went over his background. Most of the membership seemed surprised that Mr Emerson has a law degree. He seems like such a nice guy.

Mr Emerson then went over several things coming to downtown Huntsville and said his job was "managing success." Suprisingly, no one threw anything at Mr Emerson for this last bit of hyperbole. In fact, many people enjoy hearing about how great Huntsville is doing and how we are wiping the floor with other cities.

President Hodges adjourned his fourth meeting. While most bolted for the door like their hair was on fire, a few hung around to make fun of Greg Revera.

Eric