

Minutes of the March 15, 2023, meeting of the Membership of the  
Loudoun County Bar Association

The March 15, 2023, meeting of the membership, held at the Tuscarora Mill Restaurant in Leesburg, was called to order by President Leslie Barnes at 12:04 p.m.

President Barnes recognized our guests, including Judges Horne, Sinclair Taylor and Jacob.

Treasurer's Report

President Barnes read the Treasurer's report. The current balance in the operating account is \$85,079.54. New members approved by the Board are Cambridge Baker, Lori Ebersohl, Max Ross and Mary Huff.

Bench Bar Committees

Circuit Court – Eric Demetriades stated that this committee would meet in mid-April. The Clerk is releasing a new website. Twenty-seven attorneys have indicated that they want e-filing training; Clerk Clemens will be reaching out to these individuals.

J&DR Court – Amanda Stone Swart said that this committee met with the judges in January. The judges want the Bar to look ahead toward the need to add another judge to this court, so the committee is gathering data. There are new kiosks available to look up adult matters.

General District Court – Penn Bain reported that the meeting with the Commonwealth's Attorney went well, and she was going to speak with her law enforcement partners. The committee is still waiting to receive something in writing. The committee will meet next on arch 30 at 3:30. Attorneys are asked to note their appearance before the beginning of the docket and be on time. Attorneys should hand a note to the courtroom clerk if he/she must be in another courtroom.

Law Camp

Amanda Stone Swart reported that speakers have been lined up, including former Justice Mims as the keynote speaker. Judge Sinclair will also be speaking. Gary Clemens has secured a speaker from the Balch Library for Juneteenth. Witness and mentor coordinators will be reaching out. Applications are out in the high schools and there is a link online through the LCBA web site; we still don't have access to the Law Camp website.

Street Law

This event will be held on April 20 from 2-4 p.m. at the Northstar School. Board member Mariam Ebrahimi coordinated this program and has sufficient volunteers.

### Bench Bar Dinner Dance

President Barnes thanked the membership for its support of this event and said it was a good time. She thanked the judges who attended and specifically thanked Judge Horne, who spoke at the event after he was recruited to do so the day of! She also thanked the sponsors. Rachel Robinson then thanked President Barnes for all her work to make this event a success.

### Bylaw changes

President Barnes said that the results of the membership survey were in favor of creating LCBA practice sections. In order to do that, the LCBA bylaws must be amended. It was moved and seconded to amend the bylaws to allow for sections; the motion was approved unanimously.

The Board also recommends changes to the membership categories as follows:

1. Add a category for public service attorneys (those who work for a 501 C 3 organization, the Public Defender, those on the court-appointed list under certain criteria)
2. Dues to be pro-rated
3. If dues are not paid 90 days after they are due, membership will be terminated (currently placed in “not in good standing” status)

Board member Eric Pohlner explained that Associate membership will now be for attorneys who are not barred in Virginia. John Sherwood asked for the rationale behind the change regarding the termination of membership for failure to pay dues. Board member Pohlner responded this change is proposed because it is not clear what “not in good standing” means and language in the bylaws need to be inconsistent.

Judge Sinclair-Taylor asked what will happen if a legal service attorney leaves their employment; President Barnes responded that the Board does not re-evaluate memberships during the membership year.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed changes to the bylaws concerning membership categories; the motion was approved unanimously.

### LCBA membership group photo

Board member Matt Bass is coordinating a new group photo, which will take place on June 8 at 5 p.m. at the old Courthouse. A happy hour will follow at the Laurel Brigade. The rain date is June 22.

### Charity drive

We will be collecting items to support Mobile Hope, an outreach to homeless teens. An email was sent to the membership with a list of items needed. Items may be dropped off at the offices of Berard Robinson and the County government building.

### Spotlight a Charity

Jennifer Montgomery of Loudoun Hunger Relief addressed the membership. She has been with this organization for 8 years. LHR is the largest food pantry in the County and has been around for 32 years. They are seeing a surge in need and have served 12,000 residents. They have partnerships throughout the County, gave 2.3 million pounds of food to residents last year. LHR is launching an expansion in Leesburg after receiving rent abatement from the County. They were unable to find good space away from their current location on Miller Drive, so they are expanding in conjunction with a non-profit “hub” being established at this location. Construction will begin next week. LHR also has a pet pantry – collect and distribute pet food - and partner with the Humane Society and Loudoun County Animal Services.

### Dessert Sponsor

Scott German with Burke & Herbert Bank was present and gave brief remarks.

### Update from the General Assembly

Delegate Suhas Subramanyam, who represents a portion of Eastern Loudoun County, addressed the membership. He said he is the only attorney in the Loudoun delegation. He also shared that this was not a productive session of the General Assembly as control of the House and Senate is split between the parties.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Milissa Spring  
Secretary