A meeting of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee was held on Thursday, May 16, 2019.

I. Calling Meeting to Order
   Co-Chair Sharon López called the meeting to order. Sharon noted this is her last meeting as Co-Chair and she is passing the gavel to Tyesha Miley. Tyesha will become Chair and Tony Thompson will be Vice-Chair. Congratulations to Tyesha and Tony!

   Tyesha Miley gave a few words as in-coming Chair. The speaker-series will continue at our monthly meetings. She is looking to build more active participation from the western part of the state and from Pittsburgh. She will build on the foundation of renewed active membership laid by Sharon and she hopes to continue the forward momentum.

   Sharon noted that we have all of the MBC Subcommittee leadership slots filled. She is very excited about this as we move forward.

II. Introductions of attendees:
   a. Brief introductions of attendees occurred.

III. Action Items & Announcements.
   A. Approval of April 12, 2019 Minutes.
The minutes of April 12, 2019 were approved as presented. (Tsiwen Law Motion, 2d by Jessie Smith). Abstention by Dolly Shuster.

B. Barristers of Philadelphia Scholarship Gala Ad – See ad attached to meeting announcement

Sharon reported that the Committee sponsored an ad for the Barristers Gala of $500. She also noted that Carlton Johnson is receiving the J. Austin Norris Award at the Gala. Our Committee has a history of financially supporting the Asian Pacific American Bar Association and the Hispanic Bar Association with their marquee events.

C. Appointment of Secretary for bar year 2019-2020 – Andrea Farney

Andrea Farney (bio attached to distributed minutes) has served as Secretary of the Committee for the last two years. Andrea advised the Committee she is willing to serve one more year in this role. Fortunately, LaToya Winfield Bellamy is willing to serve as Secretary for the 2020-21 bar year!

Motion made by Tyesha Miley to appoint Andrea Farney as Secretary for the 2019-2020 bar year. Emmanuel Iheukwumere 2d. Motion passes unanimously.

IV. Subcommittee Chair Reports:

A. New Subcommittee Appointments –
   1. Subcommittee chairs and leadership liaisons – see distributed document.
   2. Executive Council call schedule – See attached.

Sharon advised members that it is time to sign up for subcommittees for next year and to review the subcommittee list attached distributed with the minutes to confirm your membership. The Executive Council call schedule for the next bar year was also distributed.

B. Minority Attorney Conference – Marisa Lattimore, Rhodia Thomas, and Gina Thomas. (October 3-4, 2019, Philadelphia)

Marisa Lattimore reported. Everything is progressing very well. All panels are in place and most panels are pretty well set. Marisa recognized Jessie Smith’s assistance in recruiting some panelists. The next planning call is May 30, 2019 at Noon. The title is Communities Under Attack: Leadership Going Forward. Unfortunately the Tree of Life Rabbi is not available. Members suggested potential speakers from the Anti-Defamation League, David Amesman and David Storesberger. Tsiwen reminded the Subcommittee to discuss the A. Leon Higginbotham Jr. award nomination.
C. Diversity Summit – Andrea Farney, Sharon Barney, Anthony Cox, Jay Silberblatt, Patrice Turenne

Andrea Farney reported she will send an email to the new leadership to coordinate scheduling the first planning meeting for the 2020 Diversity Summit. Sharon López asked the Subcommittee to consider location, whether to blend with the Business Forum, and format changes. For the format, there was discussion about having some small group sessions regarding how to move the diversity ball forward. Sharon asked the Subcommittee to do some creative thinking outside the box. The topic of Environmental Racism was suggested as a possible joint project with the Environmental Law Section.

D. Government Attorney – Beverly Rampaul, Nefertiti Sickout, Gina Thomas

Sharon reported for the Subcommittee. She noted they are thinking about having a get together at the annual Government Attorney Conference.

Later Beverly reported. There was a conference call last Wednesday and only Beverly and Gina participated. They are trying to put together a happy hour at an OGC Annual meeting. They are also interested in acting as a resource to government attorneys and maybe doing a webinar or CLE.

E. Membership Development – Cherylle Corpuz, Jacqueline Martinez, Sharon López

Sharon and Jackie reported. The next meeting is 5/24/19 at 9:30 am. The Subcommittee is going to focus on Executive Council members to start building the pictorial directory. There was a suggestion to take the last couple of conferences and take those names and compare them to our membership list and do outreach to those folks. Ana Paulina Gomez is going to do welcoming for new members that sign-up. There was discussion about continuing to do peer to peer membership development.

F. Governance – Rachel Hadrick, Marsha Grayson

Rachel Hadrick reported. The Subcommittee is reviewing our operating procedures. Generally speaking, Sections have more autonomy because they collect dues and select their own leadership. Also, Presidents appoint chairs of committees. The WIP may have a history of leadership selection that we could learn from.

G. Minority Law Day – Rachel Hadrick, Verdell Dean, and Nigel Scott

Verdell Dean reported. Imogene Cathey is Co-chair with her for Western PA law day. They haven’t had a meeting yet. Rachel reported on Central PA. She
advised they are waiting for the school schedule for next year and are narrowing down potential dates. Patrice Turenne is going to work with Nigel Scott on Philadelphia. Patrice reported they are looking for dates and will then start with the problem. The groups are planning to use the same problem.

H. Legislative – Tsiwen Law & Brenda Marrero

Tsiwen reported. There isn’t any report from Ashley on the state side. The state is working on the budget before June 30th. There is a grid that Ashley puts together and she will be adding resolutions to the grid. On the federal side, HR 986 passed the House. It has to do with protecting pre-existing conditions for individuals in states that apply for waivers. HR 2157 is a Disaster Relief Bill. Members may want to call Senators. On April 23 the Supreme Court heard the case about the citizenship question on the 2020 census.

PBA is considering a resolution on ICE involvement at State Courthouses. The concern is that witnesses, crime victims, litigants are not able to access the Courts because of ICE surveillance. The PBA Board of Governors passed the PBA Resolution 21-3. The House of Delegates will make the final decision on Friday. This resolution is coming out of the Civil and Equal Rights Committee. The co-chairs of the committee are Riley Ross and Mimi McCormick. Our Committee is in support of the resolution. Sharon López and Wes Payne will be speaking on behalf of the resolution. Sharon Barney explained prior ICE policy of not arresting individuals at courthouses, hospitals, and schools. She explained ICE warrants. Lynn Marks noted that the ICE courthouse surveillance affects jury participation and crime victims and victims of protection from violence.

At the State level there is a new bill on regional election of appellate Judges. The Committee will want to track this bill.


Maraleen Shields reported. She is asking for nominations for this year’s Rising Star. The award will be presented at the Minority Attorney Conference. The next newsletter deadline is September 10, 2019.

V. Working Group on Permanent Minority Governor Position and Women Governor Position at Large – Wes Payne

A. WIP assigned Stephanie Lattimore as co-chair of the joint working group. Others assigned from the WIP are: Renee Mattei Myers, Nancy Conrad, Rachel King, Melinda Ghilardi and Judge Domitrovich.
B. This group is going to discuss the re-appointment of At-large Governor positions

VI. New Business.
None.

VII. Announcements.
A. Al Día is having a reception the night of the Minority Attorney Conference.
B. The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of PA is having a dinner the next night of the Minority Attorney Conference.

VIII. Member comments or concerns.
A. The CLE Board is not moving forward on implementation of the Diversity CLE credit. There was discussion about how to influence this process.
B. Diversity and inclusion and the Court System was discussed generally. Also the need for more diversity in the PA Appellate Bench.

IX. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn.

Joint Reception of Solo & Small Firm Section, GLBT Rights Co., WIP, and Minority Bar Committee – May 16, 2019 at 4:30 pm.
Next Executive Council Meeting June 3, 2019.
Next Meeting Date: June 14, 2019
Minority Attorney Conference – PBI Conference Center – October 3-4, 2019

Minutes Submitted by Andrea C. Farney, Secretary.