

Minutes of the South Carolina Roster Administrators
Meeting Date: Tuesday September 21st, 2010

Location: Ellis, Lawhorne & Sims, P.A.
1501 Main Street
Columbia, SC
Host: Sheila M. Woodard

Attendees:

1. Laurie Jennings, Nelson Mullins, Laurie.Jennings@nelsonmullins.com
2. Jay-Jay Flanagan-Grannemann, McWhirter, Bellinger & Associates, PA (MBA), jayjay1971@gmail.com
3. Sharon P. Hyland, Nexsen Pruet, SHyland@nexsenpruet.com
4. Sheila M. Woodard, Ellis, Lawhorne & Sims, P.A. (ELS), swoodward@ellislawhorne.com

By Phone:

5. Suzanne Ponder, Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, PA (HSB), sponder@hsblawfirm.com
6. Crystal Kazmierski, Rogers Townsend & Thomas, PC (RTT), ckazmierski@rtt-law.com

Laurie called the meeting to order at approximately 1:15 p.m. after a teleconference was established.

Laurie thanked Sheila for hosting this month's meeting; none of those present had been to the ELS office before.

Laurie advised that the meeting dates for October and December have been corrected on the agenda; thanks go out to Sheri Neely for pointing out that the previously-listed dates were both Mondays. Laurie asked what everyone thought about either choosing an earlier-than-normal date for the December meeting, or perhaps not holding a December meeting at all, as our regular meeting date falls quite close to Christmas (on December 20th). It was decided that we would play it by ear as the date gets closer; perhaps the new board will make a decision about that after elections at the October meeting.

Sharon advised that she and Julie Colgan have not been able to meet with David Hamilton, the President of SCCCROD, regarding the status of our proposal from last summer to present at one of their meetings in an attempt to establish a relationship with the Clerks of Court yet. Apparently Mr. Hamilton's monthly meeting at Nexsen Pruet here in Columbia (for another organization with which he is involved) was postponed, but they hoped to arrange a meeting with him the week following our meeting.

Sharon also mentioned that if *that* meeting fell through, Julie would definitely be seeing Mr. Hamilton at the SCCCROD fall meeting in Greenville at the end of September, as another organization Julie belongs to was to have a booth there that she would be staffing for part of the multi-day meeting.

Jay-Jay confirmed that news of our annual elections meeting (on October 19th, 2010) will be included in the next issue of *Carolina Paralegal News*, which was to be published on September 27th, as the paper returns to a bimonthly schedule.

Laurie stated that more than half of the membership (18 individuals) have responded positively regarding having their contact information, including firm affiliation, email address, phone number, and mailing address, posted on the website; we are still waiting to hear from a few folks (14 individuals). **Even if your answer is no, we need a response from you; if you have not already emailed Laurie your answer, please do so today.** Some members were awaiting approval of the proposal from their firms; hopefully enough time has passed for that to have been obtained. Jay-Jay volunteered to follow up with those we have not heard from, as Laurie hasn't received any responses to her follow-up emails. Due to a small number of new members added recently, we need approximately 7 or 8 additional members to agree to be listed before we will meet our self-imposed threshold to include the detailed membership list on the website.

We discussed Chief Justice Toal's recent address to the judicial conference held here in Columbia in late August. The PowerPoint presentation can be found at: <http://www.judicial.state.sc.us/whatsnew/CJToalJudicialConference2010.pdf>

It comes as no surprise that the state is having a budget crisis; we discussed generally how we might help and become a resource for the Judicial Department and Clerks of Court as they implement CMS and whatever comes next. Laurie specifically called out slides 13 and 23; as a full-time roster professional, she is concerned about the need to transition to other duties as the state begins planning to implement electronic filing like in the Federal Courts. No one present believes the process will be quick, however, so we have time to investigate the possibilities, including Laurie's suggestion that roster professionals expand to become general firm docket managers.

Jay-Jay also pointed out slide 10, which shows the current state of the implementation of CMS (including some facts and figures comparing the current implementation level to last year's) and a general, color-coded order in which the few remaining counties will be brought online. You will likely need to zoom in on the slide to read the county names and the color-coded key.

Laurie asked if we should table our attempts to contact the Supreme Court directly in favor of working with SCCCROD and letting any contact with the Supreme Court be a joint one with SCCCROD's new committee regarding CMS. Some members felt we should have an independent contact, as we do not want to rely on SCCCROD, based on how slowly they seem to act, and because our having a contact there would be

something for our organization to bring to the table in any joint efforts with SCCROD or its new CMS committee. Nothing was decided at this time. If we *do* decide to continue efforts to establish a contact at the Supreme Court, Laurie will attempt to contact Scott Hayes' boss, Joan Nassey.

We discussed issues members have had with various counties of late, including intermittent access problems for Beaufort County rosters. Sharon advised that the county's website is being updated by their IT person, who she believes is periodically taking the site down to perform the updates. It was recommended that you check back in a few hours or days if you have trouble accessing the site.

Dorchester County is still out of space to list Motions rosters; both Sharon and Suzanne have called the non-jury contact to ask her to delete the rosters that passed many months ago, as we can no longer see the new rosters because the arrow buttons don't work. If this continues to be an issue, it would be appreciated if *OTHER* members with cases in Dorchester County would also contact this woman about it, so perhaps she will remove all the rosters for which dates have already passed!

Laurie did an audit of her jury roster searches in August and discovered that her firm had 10 cases for which their attorneys were not listed on the roster. This serves as a reminder to everyone to check Public Records data if you know a case should appear in your searches but doesn't; a simple typo in the data entry when the case is filed or your attorney appears can prevent our recommended search tools (the Adobe redacting plugins) from locating a case your firm is responsible for! If possible, ensure that those responsible for filing Complaints, Answers, or Notices of Appearance advise you of all new suits the firm is handling and confirm that the Public Records information properly lists your attorney and firm.

Sharon asked for a demonstration of the tip Crystal provided last month regarding getting to additional rosters (beyond the first page) by specifying a more recent Begin Date. We used the Greenville County Motions rosters as an example, as they go out until next summer, more than 9 months from now, over at least 4 pages! Use the date of the most recent roster you can see as the Begin Date, and the next page will start with the last roster from the previous page and go out into the future from there; you can then use the last date on the second page as the Begin Date for the third page and so on. This is a great tip for everyone!

Our next meeting (at which our annual elections will be held) is scheduled for October 19th, 2010 at Nexsen Pruet with Sharon P. Hyland as host; the November 16th, 2010 meeting will be at the Law Office of Daryl G. Hawkins, LLC with Kim Harbison and Sheri Neely as hosts.

If you are interested in running for office, please contact any of the current officers for more information about what each position entails.

We are still seeking other locations for future meetings. Remember: lunch does *not* need to be provided; we just need a conference room, but would prefer to have a computer, Internet hookup, screen, and teleconference capability if possible. Please contact Laurie at the email address above if you are interested in hosting a future meeting. Thanks!

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay-Jay Flanagan-Grannemann

Secretary
South Carolina Rosters Administrators
10/03/2010