

GDLA Summer 2006 Annual Business Meeting Highlights Hamilton, Bermuda June 10, 2006

Prepared by Edward M. Hughes in the absence of Robert M. Travis, secretary treasurer

Members of the Board and Past Presidents attending the annual meeting were: Salty Forbes, Warner Fox, Richard Rominger, Jimmy Singer, Steve Kyle, Johnny Foster, Kirby Mason, Melvin Haas, Gary Seacrest, Bruce Welch, David Nelson, Hall McKinley, Lynn Roberson, Ted Freeman, Al Parnell, Jo Jagor & Bubba Hughes.

President Johnny Foster called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 a.m. The Treasurer's Report was given by President Foster; it was reported that the organization is "financially sound." If anyone wants specifics, they can contact secretary Travis and he will supply a detailed report.

Salty Forbes reported on the Membership Committee and advised that 113 new members have been elected to membership in the GDLA for the year 2005–2006.

Salty Forbes, also Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported the committee had met and had a slate of officers to propose. He stated that the by-laws provide that the Past Presidents attending the annual meeting comprise the Nominating Committee; however, this year all Past Presidents throughout the state had been allowed to participate by e-mail. The members of the committee were Richard Rominger, Steven Kyle, Bruce Welch, Al Parnell and Salty Forbes, along with President Foster, as an ex officio member. The following individuals were nominated to one-year terms on the Board of Directors:

State at Large: Hall McKinley, Matt Moffett, Sarah Akins

The following individuals were nominated for three-year terms on the Board: Southern District: Peter Muller (2009); Middle District: Rusty Gunn (2009); Northern District: Jo Jagor (2009)

Lynn Roberson, Ted Freeman, David Nelson, Craig Avery, Jamie Weston and Kirby Mason continue as Board Members for their respective terms of office.

The following were nominated for Vice Presidents: N. Staten Bitting, Jr., W. Melvin Haas, III, R. Clay Ratterree and Edward M. Hughes; Secretary/Treasurer: James E. Singer; Executive Vice President: Robert M. Travis; President: Warner S. Fox; Immediate Past President: John A. Foster

President Foster recognized 25-year members present: John Edwards, Al Parnell, Bruce Welch, Steve Kyle, and Salty Forbes.

President Foster also recognized Bill Gambell, President of the Alabama Defense lawyers and thanked him for our continuing great relationship.

President Foster also introduced Valerie Shea, Past President of the Florida Defense Lawyers Association, and DRI Southeast Region Director and Kathy Maus member of the DRI Board of Directors. Ms. Shea thanked everyone and mentioned the recent DRI Southeast Regional meeting, which Bruce Welch attended for Georgia. DRI is starting chapters in states for law students to form partnerships and she noted that the magazine and expert database are free now for members. The National Foundation for Judicial Excellence is a non-profit organization formed to compete with the American Trial Lawyers Association Judges' Seminar and intends to present important issues to the defense bar.

Bruce Welch, as the Georgia State representative to DRI, recognized John Foster for the one of the best years ever and presented the Exceptional Service Award.

Tom McGill reported on the Trial Academy and the importance of maintaining five to six students to each faculty member.

President Foster also thanked those who had been of assistance to him throughout the year which made his job easier, including Bubba Hughes and Clay Ratterree with respect to the Law Journal, Tom McGill on the Trial Academy, Staten Bitting and Luanne Clark for the Workers' Compensation Academy, Kirby Mason and David Nelson for the Web site Committee, and Staten Bitting for the newsletter, Ted Freeman for his efforts on the part of the Amicus Committee, Clay Ratterree for his work on sponsorships, Sally Akins with respect to the Charge Book, and executive director Steve Milano for his assistance on various matters.

The Judicial Relations Committee will be chaired by Doug Stewart. Lynn Roberson has been representing the organization before the Judicial Qualification Committee.

President Foster also thanked Steve Kyle for his hard work in setting up meetings and coordinating the various activities to make them enjoyable & well attended.

President Foster also wanted to recognize two individuals for special contributions. First was Hall McKinley who enlisted 20 new members last year. As a board member, Hall would not be entitled to the membership recruitment discount, so a plaque recognizing the accomplishment was presented to him. Secondly, it was pointed out that the seal and logo were an idea that originated with Past President Wilbur Brooks and that Salty's wife, Lee, an accomplished artist, was asked to create the logo. Lee was recognized and presented with an attractively framed enlarged version of the logo.

The new President, Warner Fox, was introduced. Warner thanked Johnny for his service in a record-setting year and remarked that high goals had been established.

Warner pointed out that the expenses of speakers for the Bermuda trip were borne by our sponsors and members making presentations and that an excellent program had been developed. The meeting adjourned.