

TAXATION SECTION MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

Council Chairperson, Sherill Siebert, called the annual meeting of the State Bar of Michigan Taxation Section to order on September 9, 2004 at 5:10 p.m.. The meeting was held at the 2000 Town Center Skyline Club, Charlevois Room, Southfield, Michigan.

A. MINUTES.

The minutes of the last annual meeting of the Taxation Section held on September 12, 2003 were distributed by Council Secretary at that time, Charles Lax. There being no comments, on motion duly made by George Gregory and seconded by Henry Lee, the minutes were accepted.

B. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Council Treasurer, Charles Lax, presented the treasurer's report for the period October 1, 2003 through July 31, 2004.

C. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At this time, Sherill Siebert called upon Edward M. Deron, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee. Ed stated that the Nominating Committee, comprised of James Novis, Eric Weiss and him, report the following nomination of Council Members and Officers for the year 2004-2005:

Council Members - Terms Expiring in September 2007:

Paul R. Jackson
Gina M. Torielli
Alvin L. Storrs

Council Officers:

Chairperson:	Eric M. Nemeth
Vice Chairperson:	Charles M. Lax
Treasurer:	Aaron H. Sherbin
Secretary:	Jay A. Kennedy
Ex-Officio:	Sherill Siebert

Sherill Siebert next requested further nominations from the floor. Inasmuch as no further nominations were tendered, upon motion duly made by George Gergory, and seconded by Jay A. Kennedy, the slate of new Council Members and Officers was unanimously approved.

D. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT.

Sherill Siebert read her report, a copy of which is attached.

E. PRESENTATIONS TO IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRPERSON, RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND NEW CHAIRPERSON.

Sherill Siebert recognized the significant contribution of Past Chairperson, Ed Deron, as well as the contributions of former Council Members, John Neberle, Trevor Wetherington, Anthony Caputo and George Runstadtler. Plaques commemorating their contributions were presented. Additionally, Sherill presented a new gavel to incoming Chairperson, Eric Nemeth, and congratulated him on behalf of the Tax Section.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Henry Lee and seconded by Chuck Lax. Upon unanimous consent, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron H. Sherbin
Secretary

Annual Meeting of the Taxation Section, State Bar of Michigan

Chairperson's Report

September 9, 2004

It has been a pleasure for me to have served as Chairperson of the Taxation Section this past year. I have enjoyed the experience immensely and feel good about the things we have done to benefit our members. Thanks to our Council members for being part of this.

Outreach

At the beginning of my term, one thing I wanted the Section to do was to expand its outreach program. We have succeeded in doing that, but we can and will do more. We decided to try to make membership attractive to potential new tax attorneys who will be the future of our profession. Joan Dindoffer accepted the responsibility for working with all of the local law schools with the result that we have established a program for law students to provide one article for each issue of the Michigan Tax Lawyer. We also made it possible for some students to attend the Section's annual Summer Tax Conference at reduced cost and are in the process of scheduling so-called "meet and greet" events at each law school so students can interact informally with tax practitioners.

Internet

Another project of great importance to me was to ensure that the Section's website became functional and relevant. Under Jeff DeVree's guidance, we have made tremendous strides in this area. Jeff has made sure that the information on the site is current and that we are able to post announcements of events there. He also established a ListServ that some 400 Section members joined immediately. This was just a start; we have plans to accomplish much more.

Michigan Tax Lawyer

We published three issues of the Michigan Tax Lawyer this year and, thanks to Jay Kennedy, everything went smoothly. It is not an easy task to obtain and edit all of the articles for each issue and arrange for publishing and mailing, but Jay made it all seem effortless. In addition to including a student article in each issue now, we are working to see how to integrate this publication with our Internet capabilities through our website.

Summer Tax Conference

An annual tradition for our Section has been the Summer Tax Conference. This year Henry Lee was masterful in obtaining financial support from no less than three companies. At the same time, he worked tirelessly to obtain outstanding speakers and make sure everything went smoothly at the new venue for the conference, the Soaring Eagle Resort and Casino in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

After Hours Tax Series

Another mainstay activity for the Section was, again this year, the collaborative effort with ICLE to present the After Hours Tax Series. Shirley Kaigler worked last year to develop the topics that were so successful in generating great attendance this year and Trevor Wetherington is doing the same thing this year for the fall and winter sessions.

Directory

This year we were to publish an updated Directory of Section members. Under Trevor Wetherington's leadership, we made the decision to move from a paper directory to an electronic one. Although we completed the Directory update, we have not yet resolved all of our technical distribution issues.

Tax Court Luncheons

Again this year the Section sponsored a luncheon on September 30, 2003, with the Tax Court judges who were in town. Ron Charlebois has scheduled another one for November 30, 2004.

Committee Meetings

Finally, our Committee Chairs, Eric Carver (Business Entities), George Runstadler (Estates and Trusts), Jim Mauro (Practice & Procedure), John Neberle (State & Local), and Warren Widmayer (Employee Benefits), have worked relentlessly to come up with fresh topics for the four committee meetings/educational sessions each committee conducts each year. This year we have experimented with using video conferencing to expand the number of Section members who can attend the committee presentations and have found that to be a successful alternative to some in-person meetings.

Thanks to all of the members of the Council who worked so hard this year to make a difference for our Section. The officers worked even harder than usual because in addition to the six regular Council meetings, they also attended five officer conferences. So thanks to the officers, Eric Nemeth, Vice Chairperson, without whose help and support my job would have been impossible, Chuck Lax, Treasurer, whose friendship and hard work I greatly value, and Aaron Sherbin, Secretary, whose reliability and focused comments meant so much. Thanks, also, to Ed Deron, Ex Officio, whose guidance was invaluable, and to the rest of the Council members whose dedication and attention to task made my job easier. And finally, thanks especially to Jan Baggett, the Section's Facilitator, whose reliable assistance has been so helpful to all of us.

Sherill Siebert

Chairperson, Taxation Section, State Bar of Michigan, 2003-2004