

# Highlights of the NAPPS Board Meeting February 10, 2001 San Diego, California

By: Joe Butler

The third board meeting of this term was held on Saturday, February 10, 2001 at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego, California.

All officers, directors and the administrator were in attendance, as well as several members from across the country, including David Nill and Eleanor Richardson from California; Larry Roth from Missouri; Mary Lee Rustand from Washington; Mr. And Mrs. Jack Lippman from Florida; John Perez from New Jersey; Dave Schirtzer from New York; and A&G Co-Chairs Stuart and Linda Perlmutter from Connecticut.

Minutes of the November Board meeting were unanimously approved on a motion made by Thomas MacDonald and seconded by Don Eisenberg.

Treasurer Ron Ezell reported that NAPPS' finances are healthy and in order. Further, the treasurer is now able to access real-time accounting reports from the administrator's office via the Internet. Although Ron is able to obtain this data anytime he wishes, it is presented in a read-only format so that no one can make unauthorized changes. The treasurer continues to receive regular reports from the administrator. This writer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, which passed unanimously after being seconded by Andy Estin.

Administrator Alan Crowe reported that he looked into increasing the administrator's Fidelity Bond as he was instructed at the November meeting. The current bond was raised from \$200,000.00 to a level of \$300,000.00, which more accurately reflects our finances.

Reporting on "The Docket Sheet", the administrator indicated that the publication seems to be "edging toward the day it will become a self-supporting operation. Our advertising revenue for the first seven months of the current fiscal year was \$24,084, which comes awfully close to covering the \$25,554. we spent in publishing the first three issues."

The administrator reported that the Fall 2000 Directory has been published and that most members will have received theirs by the time of the meeting. The directory was six weeks late from the printer and was then held up at the distribution house for an additional two weeks before the shipper could fit it into their operations schedule. As their smallest customer, we were forced to take a backseat to their larger customers who had shipments between one hundred and five hundred times our size.

Reporting on the November Summit Meeting in St. Louis, the administrator provided a breakdown of additional costs, which included the additional night's rooms, photocopies, lunch, refreshments and complimentary portfolios distributed to attendees. The total amount was \$2,248.07.

A budget of \$2,500. was authorized in November to allow International Relations Committee Chair Sue Collins to attend the meeting of the Permanent Council of the Union Internationale des Huissiers de Justice in Paris. Sue was invited to give a presentation to the council concerning enforcement of judgments in the U.S., which was very well received. Sue's total airfare and hotel

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expenses came in under budget at \$1,873. Fred Blum also attended the meeting, but he did not wish to be included in the budget and he declined reimbursement for his expenses. Both Sue and Fred will be attending the next meeting of the UIHJ, which will be held this June in Antwerp. A budget of \$5,000. was passed unanimously on a motion made by Thomas MacDonald and seconded by Ron Ezell.

First Vice President Jeff Karotkin reported on the Courts and Technology Committee. Jeff compiled profiles of companies currently using e-filing and distributed several packets of information to the board. Following some general discussion on this topic, Jeff indicated that he will prepare a report for the March - April issue of "The Docket Sheet."

This writer reported as the editor of the "The Docket Sheet." It was announced that advertisers now have the added option of submitting ad copy electronically as .pdf files. This will ensure that graphics-intensive ads will not lose any of their quality by first being laser printed and then being photographed for the plate-making process. It was also announced that much of the publication's layout is now being transmitted to the printers electronically. In addition, with the editor submitting digital images in place of many photographs, NAPPS will save some money in scanning and pre-press costs.

This writer also indicated that he was asked to hold publishing the January - February issue until after this board meeting. Among other reasons, the issue was being held to include photos and San Diego area member profiles written by the administrator. However, in order to do the profile article justice, the administrator subsequently agreed with the editor that it would be best held until the March - April issue.

Ron Ezell, reporting as the Insurance Committee Chair, said that some members received cards from Capacity Coverage Company about their insurance not being renewed. These were sent in error, as Philadelphia Insurance and

CCC will continue to cover process servers.

Arbitration & Grievance Co-Chairs Stuart and Linda Perlmutter reported that they have closed fourteen of the twenty cases they received between October 25, 2000 and February 2, 2001. Seven of those twenty were unethical complaints while the remaining were complaints for non-payment. Changes to the Policies & Procedures Manual proposed by Paul Tamaroff will be discussed at the annual conference.

President Blum reported that the NAPPS acronym and logo, which were originally registered and protected in 1986, have been renewed with the Patent and Trademark Office.

The site of the 2002 Annual Conference was discussed. As it is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NAPPS, Thomas MacDonald made a motion, which was seconded by Jeff Karotkin, to hold the conference at the site of the first annual meeting: Denver, Colorado. After discussion, the motion failed. Subsequently, Sue Collins moved to have Complete Conference Coordinators obtain prices for either San Diego or Colorado. The motion, which was seconded by Don Eisenberg, passed by a margin of 5 to 3.

Administrator Alan Crowe announced that he and Joe Butler planned to work on a TDS-sized booklet with photos and a history of NAPPS. The publication is expected to be ready for the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in 2002.

Mohammed Shaikh of E-Filing.com, Inc., Santa Barbara, California spoke to the board concerning his company and the electronic filing service he provides. After Mr. Shaikh left, it was discussed that it might be beneficial for the membership if we were to have a panel of people in the e-filing business speak at the annual conference. The administrator is looking into this. **NOTE: Although Mr. Shaikh was allowed the courtesy of addressing the board, this must in no way be construed by anyone to be an endorsement of either Mr. Shaikh, his company, his services or any similar company or services.**