



Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Council
10 a.m., Jan. 7, 2013
Minutes

Participants: Mary Gallagher, Joyce Garver Keller, Jim Aschenhurst, David Ball, Brad Bebout, Jason Dominguez, Jennifer Eschbach, Janet Greenlee, Monica Moloney, Kip Morse, Stephanie Moulton, Jennifer Odenweller, Thomas Poulson, Attorney General Mike DeWine, Molly Patterson, Pete Thomas and Beth Short.

- I. Meeting was called to order and participants introduced themselves and discussed their backgrounds.
- II. Attorney General DeWine said he was impressed with the range and depth of experience among the Council members. He expressed appreciation for their willingness to serve and provide feedback for the Charitable Law Section.
- III. Ms. Gallagher and others discussed some of the activities of the Charitable Advisory Council over the years since its founding by rule during the Petro Administration. She said that over the years there has been a definite movement in the Section to move toward data-based decision-making given the advancements in automation. She also said significant efforts have been made to enhance outreach and education.

The Council also provided feedback during the development of the online charitable registration system. Mr. Bebout noted that he received an email reminder that morning that his organization had a filing deadline date approaching. He said that sort of proactive communication with organizations is very helpful. He also said that it took no longer than 20 minutes to file his group's first filing on the system. Mr. Bebout said efforts to help prevent failure among charitable organizations are important because many times problems develop as a result of benign neglect.

- IV. Mr. Thomas, chief of the Charitable Law Section, gave an overview of the operations of the Section. He provided a summary of the case surrounding the U.S. Navy Veterans Association, a fraudulent charity that received millions in contributions from donors across the country. He also discussed other issues that emerge from complaints and investigations of charitable organizations.
- V. Ms. Short reminded the Council members that the office complies with open meetings and public records requirements in administering the activities of the Council. Meeting dates and minutes are provided online, as well as a listing of Council members.

- VI. On motion of Ms. Keller, seconded by Mr. Bebout, Ms. Gallagher was elected chair of the Advisory Council. On motion of Ms. Moulton, seconded by Mr. Morse, Ms. Keller was elected vice chair. On motion of Ms. Keller, seconded by Ms. Greenlee, the board approved use of the AG web page for posting notice of meetings.
- VII. Members engaged in broad discussions of various issues within the sector including issues arising out of the healthcare reform requirements, availability of data from the new online registration system, document retention records, inspection rights, registration requirements in other states, board schisms, board governance, fraud and other challenges that frequently arise.
- VIII. Members discussed the fact that the Council had recommended several years ago that the Charitable Law Section become a co-sponsor of the annual conference of the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations. This was viewed as an opportunity to raise visibility of the Section and registration requirements, and an opportunity to present meaningful training. On motion of Ms. Greenlee, seconded by Ms. Moloney, the Council recommended that the Section again sponsor the annual OANO conference.
- IX. Participants discussed a meeting schedule. It was decided that the Council would adopt a quarterly meeting schedule and would cancel meetings if there is no business to discuss. Ms. Short will distribute a proposed schedule for feedback.
- X. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Short