



Ohio Attorney General's Charitable Advisory Council
10 a.m., April 18, 2016
150 E. Gay St., Columbus
Minutes

Participants: Mary Gallagher, chair, Monica Moloney, Kip Morse, and Thomas Poulson. Others present included Marcy Williams of the Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organizations and AG Charitable Law Section staff members Pete Thomas, Charity Robl and Beth Short.

- I. Meeting was called to order by Ms. Gallagher, chair.
- II. On a motion of Mr. Morse, seconded by Ms. Moloney, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved with a correction to the meeting date.
- III. Mr. Thomas provided a brief update on some recent enforcement activities undertaken by the Section. He also noted that an online system is under development to handle filings and reports from professional solicitors. The omnibus AG bill, which includes the Council-approved late fees for filings under RC 1716 similar to the late fees in RC 109, is still pending in committee. One lawmaker has raised the possibility of using the bill as a vehicle to consolidate all gambling regulations under a single state agency, which would take charitable bingo away from the Charitable Law Section. The group discussed the new AGO publication, A Charity Guide for Businesses, and the problems that occur when retailers don't check the legitimacy of charities that solicit on their property. Mr. Morse and Ms. Williams said they would be happy to partner on sending messages to the business community about the issue. It was also suggested that the Section communicate with county fair and festival organizers to let them know about potentially fraudulent charities.
- IV. Ms. Short informed the group that a representative from the Society of CPAs has agreed to find someone to attend the next Council meeting to share information about the various perspectives of a potential legislative requirement that charities above a certain threshold receive audits. She also discussed a meeting she had with a former officer of the Society who suggested consideration of requiring fraud reviews that would be included in the letter of engagement with auditors. Ms. Short said that a survey of large organizations that don't receive audits will be going out soon in order to better understand why some large groups in Ohio don't receive audits.
- V. Ms. Short updated the group about new and upcoming publications. Council members made several suggestions about providing the board governance webinar information in a format that could be accessed online anytime. Ms. Short described an office priority to ensure that

diverse communities don't experience any barriers in receiving information about services from the Attorney General's Office. Several ideas were shared about the importance of developing relationships with leaders of diverse communities. Ms. Short also shared information about a survey that was recently sent to United Way and Chamber leaders to determine what groups provide board governance training to charitable leaders in their community. Results of the survey will be used to identify potential partners for future training events.

- VI. Ms. Williams provided the group with an overview of the May 3 Ohio Association of Nonprofit Organization's annual conference. She said that 300 people have registered for the luncheon.
- VII. The next meeting will be held 10 a.m., July 18 in the 23rd floor conference room at 150 E. Gay St. Members were invited to a tour of the newly-renovated floor that houses the Charitable Law Section.
- VIII. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Short