

Minutes

Minnesota Professional Process Servers Association

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers & Directors

Country Inn & Suites
120 7th Avenue SE
St. Cloud, MN

January 16th, 2012

Meeting called to order at 12:15 PM

Officers roll call

Name	Title	P / A
John Levesque	President & Treasurer	P
David Cofman	Vice President	P
Christine Heuer	Secretary / Treasurer	P
Corey Christenson	Director	A
Jim Sutcliffe	Director	P

Members present

Name	Company
David Cofman	Lawgistic Partners
Chuck Connell	Independent Process Service
Christine Heuer	Legal Process of Minnesota
Mike Hirman	S&M Civil Process
John Levesque	Metro Legal Services
Thomas Lindrud	Legal Process Services
Howard Peart	Peart & Associates
Marcia Ranum	Special Delivery Process Servers
Jim Sutcliffe	Midwest Legal Network

Members who sent their regrets

Name	Company
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Guests present

Name	Company	Contact Information
Kathleen Lange	Lawyers Process Service	320-252-6054 kkeh1421@aol.com

New Business

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to amend the bylaws as follows:

Article V - Election of Officers and Directors

1. The officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, and three Directors. The officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the association for a term of approximately one year commencing at the time of election and expiring at the time of elections at the next annual meeting. One of the Directors will be the immediate past President, if there is no immediate past President or they are unable to serve then the third Director position is open to election.

- General discussion regarding Small Claims Court limit increases. At the time no one was aware of anything pending to increase the limits but there appears to be a desire by the creditors bar to increase the limit. We have heard that the Judge's Association is opposed to an increase. Members will continue to monitor the situation and should alert the other members if anything is found. In general it appears that we would be opposed to a limit increase. Last session a bill was introduced, we're not sure what the current status is but Mr. Lindrud is making inquiries.
- Lobbying costs: from some research done by MNPPSA members into the costs of lobbying it is noted that costs far exceed the resources on the MNPPSA. If in the future the MNPPSA finds the need to support or oppose a piece of legislation a large fund, likely in excess of \$25,000 would need to be raised. However effective use of lower cost options can still be of assistance such as letter writing campaigns by the association and individual members.
- Another suggestion is to develop relationships and work with other associations that have lobbyists. Specifically in regards to the small claims increase some possibilities are the Judge's association and Legal Aid.
- Our association will be ready to apply to be a NAPPS chartered state association by the end of the year once we have been in operation for two years.
- Licensing - there was a general discussion about a desire to have some type of licensing or certification program for process servers in Minnesota.
- A number of members who have PI licenses discussed the difficulties in maintaining that license and about how we should be mindful of that when looking to license or certify process servers.
- There are essentially two different ways to accomplish licensing, either through legislative action and a state board or by having the Supreme Court create a program and add the requirements to the rules of civil procedure.
- The current plan is to develop a private certification program and once that is build and working to share it with the Supreme Court. The work done by the association to build a robust program would make it easier for the Supreme Court to take over the program and incorporate a requirement for certification into the rules.
- NY rules update - The city of New York now requires much more effort on behalf of process servers to maintain their licenses. The GPS requirements are now in place as well as third-party reporting requirements. This has been of benefit to some of the larger process serving companies but has put many smaller ones at a disadvantage. The MNPPSA represents process servers and companies of various sizes and when considering any program in MN needs to be mindful of what was learned in NY and try to structure things to benefit all members and not put undue burden on any one class.
- MOTION - A motion was passed to form a committee to work on a certification program. The members are Thomas Lindrud, Jerry Cziok, and John Levesque. The goal is to come up with a program in the near future and to share it with all members for comments and improvements. Ideally we should implement this as soon as possible and have the course available for all members to take and obtain certification.

- We had a general discussion on member benefits and dues. The members present felt that the current membership fee was appropriate. The association will begin listing the members online in the near future. Members can link to the association's website from their own as a way to show potential customers that they're a member of the association. A dues notice will be sent to all members and they will be asked to make payment within sixty days.
- Attached is a report of the associations finances. Our expenses are minimal and member dues are being saved for future use.
- It is suggested that all association members should join NAPPS. Once we have obtained the status as a chartered state association the NAPPS dues will be reduced for members of both associations.
- As it is the goal of the association to represent all MN process servers we would like to continue to increase the number of members. If any member is aware of a process server who has not yet become a member please ask them to continue joining.

Elections

Name	Position
John Levesque (Minneapolis)	President
David Cofman (Minneapolis)	Vice President
Christine Heuer (Glencoe)	Secretary / Treasurer
Chuck Connell (Princeton)	Director
Jim Sutcliffe (Minneapolis)	Director
Thomas Lindrud (Rochester)	Director

Additional New Business

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Motion to adjourn: Thomas Lindrud

Second: David Cofman

Carried and so ordered

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM