



FINALIZED MEETING MINUTES FROM CLA JUNE 17, 2024 BOARD MEETING AND ANNUAL MEETING

BOARD MEETING

Chairman Weinberg called the June Board meeting to order at 5:00 PM EDT. In attendance, in addition to Chairman Weinberg, were Vice Chair Joyce Schlesinger, Board Secretary David Menotti (virtually), Board members Deb Jennings, Stephen Kurzman, Russell Stevenson, Lois Shiffer, Tom Barba, Richard Hinds, Robin Leone (virtually), Rick Hoffman (virtually), Vincent Leggett (virtually), and Morgan Johnson (virtually). Also attending were CLA Executive Director David Reed and CLA Staff members Evan Isaacson, Kennedy Fichtel, MarieClaire Egbert (virtually), Lesley Vultaggio (virtually), Patrick DeArmey (virtually), and Molly Brown (virtually). Board members Shipman and Coyne were not present but had provided their proxies to Chairman Weinberg. Peter Robertson, who was elected to the Board during this meeting (see below), also attended.

There were no changes in the [Agenda \(Attachment A\)](#). The Agenda and other documents either distributed prior to the meeting or presented and used in the meeting are in the documents file for this meeting on the Members Only section of the [CLA website](#) and [CLA Google Drive](#). They are identified in these minutes by reference to the attachments appearing on the Board section of the CLA Website and blue font for those who are accessing CLA's GoogleDocs site. All Board actions summarized below were taken in accordance with required procedures; they will be noted below simply as "approvals," in the interests of brevity.

Chairman Weinberg made brief opening remarks.

The minutes of the [March 16 meeting](#) (Attachment B) were approved unanimously.

Joyce Schlesinger lead a discussion of the [financial report](#) (Attachment C). She and David Reed also noted that approximately \$300,000 in attorney fees expected from the Fleischmanns case are expected to be received by CLA by July 6, 2024. She also cautioned that attorney fee revenue comparable to FY 2024 was not expected in FY 2025, and that additional revenue thus would be required from new grants and individual giving. Chairman Weinberg reminded Board members of the importance of their personal contributions and solicitations of others.

David Menotti reported about the Board Document Reorganization Project that is underway. The current CLA Board Portal on the website is currently being updated. The portal will contain the new "CLA Board Book" that will contain all updated and consolidated relevant board information for easy reference and access. This will include minutes of recent meetings and copies of all documents referenced in the meeting.



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David Reed provided the [Executive Director's Report](#) (Attachment D), which provided a review of activities during the fiscal year ending June 30, using the PowerPoint slides that are Attachment E. In addition to information provided in those documents, he noted that William Halnon, our Outreach & Pro Bono Coordinator, has left CLA. He has identified Morgana Omaleki for employment as a 2 year Outreach & Pro Bono Coordinator Fellow. In addition, for family reasons Molly Brown is relocating to Okinawa. She will remain as CLA's Director of Education in a contractor position at 40% of her current salary; after a few months, this arrangement will be reviewed to see if it is workable. A new Staff Attorney is anticipated to work with her and also undertake litigation responsibilities. The financial implications of these changes are reflected in the proposed FY 2025 budget.

David Reed also noted that he is working on an arrangement for CLA Staff members MarieClaire Egbert and Lesley Vultaggio to work one day a week at the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay office in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in addition to the one in office day at the Annapolis Office, and that Lesley Vultaggio has been building connections with local businesses, nonprofits, and foundations to establish a presence in Pennsylvania.

Tom Barba presented the [Nominations and Governance Committee Report Report](#). (Attachment F).

Richard Hinds presented the Development Committee Report. He noted that progress is being made on the September 15 Year Anniversary Event, to be held on Thursday, September 12 at DLA Piper (500 8th Street NW, Washington DC) with Senator Chris Van Hollen as guest speaker/ honoree. Board members should be receiving further information shortly as to how they can help solicit law firm sponsorships.

Deborah Jennings provided the Litigation Committee Report on the status of the DMR Project / CLA Water Enforcement Initiative. Supporting paperwork is close to being finished and two firms (Saul Ewing and DLA Piper) have indicated a willingness to take initial cases. Actual implementation is expected by mid-August. She noted that staffer Kennedy Fichtel has been appointed as the staff lead for this program, with Patrick DeArme as support. She also noted that the Litigation Committee was evaluating proposals from staff for a staff-led case that also could be brought within the next few months.

There being no further business, the June Board meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.

ANNUAL MEETING



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The Annual Meeting was called to order by Chairman Weinberg at 6:15 pm. Except as noted below, attendance was the same as for the Board meeting reported above. The Agenda is also included on Attachment A, and the same conventions followed above will be followed in this section of these minutes.

A motion to correct the minutes of the [6/28/23 Annual Meeting](#) to delete a reference to a document containing committee chair appointments was approved. The corrected minutes are Attachment G.

Messrs. [Jody Cummings](#) (resume is Attachment I) and [Peter Robertson](#) (resume is Attachment J), recommended to be elected to the Board of Directors by the Governance and Executive Committees, were elected to the Board of Directors. A Motion to Revise Board Members Terms (Attachment K) also was adopted.

A Motion to Amend [By-Laws Section 2.04](#) Section 2.04 to replace “Article III” with “Section 2.07” (Attachment L) was approved.

A motion to confirm Committee Chairs and Members in accordance with the list circulated immediately before the meeting (Attachment M) was approved. Chairman Weinberg also noted that further revisions to committee leadership and membership might be taken by the Executive Committee in the future, upon notice to Board members. (After the meeting was adjourned, it was discovered that Robin Leone was incorrectly listed on Attachment M as a member of the Litigation Advisory Committee; that error has been corrected and is expected to be ratified at the next Executive Committee meeting.)

As recommended by the Executive Committee, [CLA’s FY 2025 budget Report](#) (Attachment N) was approved.

There being no further business, the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.