

The Informant

THE ST. CROIX VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

President: Michelle Heckmann,
(715) 220-5086
michelle.heckmann@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President: Anne Schmiege,
(715) 246-2211
aschmiege@doardrill.com

Treasurer: Bob Parsons,
(715) 425-8161
robert@byegoff.com

Secretary: Angela Olson
(715) 246-3800
aolson@bakke-norman.com

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to promote a legal system whereby the rights and privileges of all persons are asserted and protected. We are dedicated to strengthening public trust in our legal system. We promote high ethical standards, civility, and professionalism amongst all attorneys. We encourage our members to serve the public. As officers of the court, we have an important role in assisting courts in the administration of justice.

CALENDAR

2/28/07: SCVBA Bench & Bar Meeting: St. Croix County Judges' Forum, Noon – 1:00 at the St. Croix County Govt. Center Board Room.

3/14/2007: SCVBA Bench & Bar Meeting: Drug Court Presentation, Noon – 1:00 at the St. Croix County Govt. Center Board Room.

4/4/2007: SCVBA Bench & Bar Meeting: Polk County Judges' Forum, Noon – 1:00 at the Polk County Courthouse.

4/9/2007 – 4/13/2007: Annual Business Clothing Drive. Drop off sites at the following law offices: Bakke Norman in New Richmond, Baldwin, Menomonie & Amery; Doar Drill in New Richmond; and Bye, Goff, Rohde & Skow in River Falls. We still need a Hudson-based firm willing to offer their office as a drop off site.

5/17/07: Roast of Guy Ludvigson at Trollhagen in Dresser, WI.

6/2007: Happy Hour on the SCVBA. Date and location to be announced.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone!

I am amazed at how fast this year is flying by and I hope that the events we have scheduled so far have been helpful to your practice. In case you missed the emails and mailings, the two Minnesota Mutual presentations that took place in 2006 were both approved for one ethics credit. In addition, Dr. Robert Gordan's presentation in December is currently in the process of being approved for one CLE credit. We will send out a confirmation email once it has been approved. In the future, we plan on offering more topics for CLE credit and have even discussed offering a full day CLE at no cost to SCVBA members. If you have a suggestion for a CLE or someone you know who wants to give a CLE presentation, please contact one of the officers to discuss.

The last four months of our year have been planned and should provide members with valuable information as well as a lot of laughs. This month we do have the St. Croix County Judge's forum which always proves to be an insightful discussion between the bench and bar. Our March meeting will center on the St. Croix County Drug Court and team members will be giving a presentation on the drug court and more importantly will be on hand to answer any questions you might have regarding the process. As this is a relatively new institution, we thought it would be best to separate this topic out from the Judge's forum. Come April, the Polk County Judges along with Corporation Counsel will be addressing the bar and providing information on procedures in Polk County. The bar will also be sponsoring a business clothing drive April 9 - 13th in conjunction with the clothing drive held by the young lawyers division of the state bar. Drop off sites will be held at several firms throughout the area, including Bye, Goff, Rohde & Skow in River Falls, Doar Drill in New Richmond, any of the Bakke Norman locations, and we are in the process of contacting several firms in Hudson to see if one of these firms could be a drop site as well. The public will be invited to bring their business clothing to any of these locations as well and an

advertisement will be placed in the local papers. We will then be taking the donations to the State Bar where the clothes will be distributed to various organizations. This will be a good chance to do some spring clothing and get rid of some suits which you never wear anymore or do not fit on account of our New Year's resolutions to lose weight! (At least that is the reason we all hope that our clothes no longer fit!)

I am happy to announce that the Roast will be back this year. Guy Ludvigson has graciously agreed to be put on the hot seat come May. Many thanks to Steve Dunlap who has been at the forefront of getting this event organized. If any you wish to actually participate in the roast because you have a good story to tell about Guy, please contact Steve Dunlap so that the necessary arrangements can be made. The Roast will take place on May 15th at Trollhagen in Dresser, Wisconsin.

Thank you to all who attended the holiday party in January at the New Richmond Golf Club. Thanks again to Carol Skinner who was able to find this year's entertainment and I did actually witness some of you out there on the dance floor. Attached to this newsletter is a survey regarding the holiday party. We would appreciate your feed back and you can either email your responses to Angela Olson or send them to

her directly at Bakke Norman. It is important that we receive the survey back as we have noticed over the past few years attendance at this event has decreased. This event is one of the only pure social events we continue to do and believe it is important to have as many of you there as possible.

Finally, I am a member of a bench and bar subcommittee looking at local rules in Districts 7, 8, 9, & 10. We are to have a recommendation to the Bench and Bar Committee by June of this year, regarding a priority of local rules and procedures that should be uniform throughout these districts as well as the state. Any thoughts or comments you would like me to take back to the committee would be extremely helpful in trying to reach this goal.

As always, your comments and suggestions regarding our meetings and events are welcome and we are very interested in your feedback as it is important to running this organization. I look forward to seeing each of you at one the few meeting we have left this year!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Current Checkbook Balance
(as of February 13, 2007):
\$3603.83.

Thank you to the following
members who have paid their
2006-2007 dues:

Annie Brose
William Radosevich
Gary Bakke
Timothy O'Brien
Timothy J. Scott
David C. Schoenberger
Daniel P. Steffen
Maureen Wegleitner
Angela Olson
Bridget Finke
Thomas R. Schumacher
Peter M. Reinhardt
Robert G. Walter
Robert J. Richardson
Brian D. Byrnes
Autumn Lindquist
Rolv Slungaard
Thomas McCormack
Tracy Tool
Dean Rohde
Chuck Bye
Robert Parsons
Steve Goff
Ardell Skow
Terry Gherty
Susan Gherty
Mark Gherty
Nick Vivian
James Krave
Kenneth Pletcher
W.T. Doar, Jr.
Howard W. Cameron
Michael P. Wagner
Michael Waterman
Rose Allen
Lisa Wiebusch
Joel Porter
D. Peter Seguin
Barry Lundeen
Brent Johnson
James Johnson

Tom Jacobson
Jennifer O'Neil
Phil Todryk
James H. Krave
Tim Heckmann
Michelle Heckmann
Kristina O'Boyle
Henk Van Dyk
Ronald Siler
James Drill
Aaron Nelson
Anne Schmiede
Matthew Biegert
Michael Brose
Joseph D. Boles
Bradley Lawrence
Barry Hammarback
Michael Jacobson
Daniel Murray
Carol Law
Daniel DeMaio
Tom McCormick
Phillip Todryk
Charles White
Warren Wood
Judith Remington
James Remington
Stephen Dunlap
Keith Rodli
Leo Beskar
Stuart Krueger
Gwen Kuchevar
Catherine Munkittrick
Carol Skinner
Joel Skinner
William Schembera
Kathleen M. Gionis
Gerald Gust
Timothy Sempf
Jason Whitley
Hugh Gwin
Roberta Dale-Wozniak
Barbara Miller
Brian Sande
Sam Cari
Chris Anderson
Ryan Cari
Jason Fey
James Bartholomew

If you have not already done
so, you can still send your
2006-2007 dues to SCVBA
Treasurer Robert Parsons
(better late than never). Dues
are \$35.00 for the year.

If you believe you have
already paid your dues, yet
your name does not appear
on the list, please contact:
Bob Parsons at
Robert@byegoff.com

**The State Bar Legal
Assistance Committee will
be making a second round
of Pro Bono Initiative
grants this Spring.**

The next deadline for
applications is February 15
and the application materials
are available at
[www.wisbar.org/committees/
lac](http://www.wisbar.org/committees/lac)
<outbind://2/www.wisbar.org
/committees/lac>. Grants of
up to \$5,000 per applicant are
available. The funds are
intended to help with the
startup or expansion costs of
pro bono projects.

Previous grant awards have
been made to help start new
pro bono projects in Brown,
Dane, La Crosse, Milwaukee
and Rock Counties. One
project established a new
volunteer attorney help desk
for pro se litigants at the
bankruptcy court in
Milwaukee. Another is
training and recruiting
lawyers to handle refugee
asylum cases. Others are
focused on projects to serve
the unmet legal needs of
domestic violence victims,
communities where English

is not the primary language and families burdened by debts from wrongful denials of health care coverage.

One unique feature of Pro Bono Initiative grants is the opportunity it gives lawyers to build partnerships not just within the legal community but also with others in the community. The committee believes that this approach strengthens commitment to the project while creating additional avenues for public outreach and technical support.

Questions about the Pro Bono Initiative or projects you are considering can be directed to any member of the Legal Assistance Committee or Jeff Brown, Pro Bono Coordinator at jbrown@wisbar.org or 800-444-9404 x6177.

SCVBA HOLDS FREE LEGAL CLINIC

St. Croix Valley Bar Association is staffing a free legal clinic the second Monday of every month for the purpose of providing general legal information to members of the community. The next free legal clinic is Monday, March 12, 2007, and will be held in the St. Croix County Community Room (south entrance at the lower level of the St. Croix County Government Center) from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. If you would like to volunteer to provide general information to individuals in

the areas of employment law, family law, landlord/tenant, small claims, criminal/traffic, estate planning, elder law, probate, real estate, business law, and debtor/creditor, please contact **Maureen Wegleitner at Bakke Norman, S.C. at (715)246-3800.**

BRIEFLY FROM THE SECRETARY

Do you have e-mail? You can receive your next copy of *The Informant* via email. If you are interested, send your email address to Angela Olson at aolson@bakke-norman.com

The Informant is a publication of the St. Croix Valley Bar Association. Any statements or opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the St. Croix Valley Bar Association.

SCVBA HOLIDAY PARTY SURVEY

Please circle your answer.

1. In what month do you prefer to have the Holiday Party?

DEC. JAN.

2. What night do you want the SCVBA to hold the Holiday party?

THURS. OTHER _____

3. Where would you like the Holiday Party to be held?

HUDSON RIVER FALLS NEW RICHMOND BALDWIN

OTHER _____

4. Would you prefer to attend a gathering in the summer (i.e. a Saints' Game in July or August) rather than the Holiday Party in the winter?

YES, I prefer a summer gathering NO, I prefer the winter Holiday Party

5. Comments/Suggestions:

Thank you for participating in the survey.

Please return completed surveys to:

Angela Olson
Bakke Norman, S.C
P.O. Box 308
New Richmond, WI 54017

Or email Angela your answers at aolson@bakke-norman.com

St. Croix County Bench and Bar Meeting

Where: St. Croix County Government Center
County Board Room

When: Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Time: Noon – 1:00 p.m.

St. Croix County Judges will hold their annual forum, discussing procedures, current issues, and answering your questions.

Box lunches from Jimmy John's will be provided. Cost is \$6.95 per person.

Please list attendees, your sandwich preference for the box lunch, and the amount enclosed. Return the bottom portion of this form, along with your check (made payable to the St. Croix Valley Bar Association) to Bob Parsons, Bye, Goff, Rohde & Skow, Ltd., 258 Riverside Drive, PO Box 167, River Falls, WI 54022. **Payment, along with your completed form, should be received no later than Monday, February 26, 2007.**

St. Croix County Bench and Bar Meeting

Attendees:

Choice of Sandwich:

_____ Turkey

_____ Tuna

_____ Roast Beef

_____ Veggie/Cheese

Amount Enclosed: _____