

The Informant

THE ST. CROIX VALLEY BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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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

11/29/06: SCVBA Bench & Bar Meeting: Avoiding Legal Malpractice, Noon – 1:00 at the St. Croix County Govt. Center. See attached flyer for more details.

12/11/06: Second Monday of every month, Free Legal Clinic.

12/13/06: SCVBA Bench & Bar Meeting: Forensic Psychological Tools presentation, Noon – 1:00 at the St. Croix County Govt. Center.

1/18/07: SCVBA Annual Holiday Party at the New Richmond Golf Club

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

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

GREETINGS!

Thank you to all who attended the golf outing in September and our meeting with Judge Wing last week.

The weather was not favorable for the golf outing but it appeared that all those who attended had fun and were still able to put up decent scores despite the rain and cold. The team of Mike Wagner, John Leonard, Phil Todryk, and Timothy Aiken won the event. Lisa Wiebusch won the long putt contest for the women and Timothy Aiken for the men. We continue to appreciate Dan Murray's assistance in planning this annual event and a special thank-you goes to him. Mark your calendars for the outing next year which will take place on September 20, 2007. We will try to have a shotgun start again next year.

Our forum with Judge Wing in October was well attended as usual. Judge Wing gave us an update on the drug court and advised that there have been three graduates of the program so far, with no recidivism. Judge Wing reminded criminal defense lawyers that he may deviate from guidelines in OWI and other drug and alcohol related cases provided that the defendant has already had an

assessment or begun a treatment program. There is a waiting list of about three months for assessments currently in Pierce County. Judge Wing also spoke about problems associated with financial cuts taking place in human services and some of the politics involved in obtaining a second judge for the county. On another note, Judge Wing advised that in all court trials, he appreciates receiving a courtesy copy of all exhibits prior to or at trial so he is better able to follow the testimony. In family cases, Judge Wing appreciates receiving trial briefs setting forth the issues of the case and what evidence will support the parties' position on the issue. He also stated that is helpful if the parties run the Mac-Davis program and bring the print out to court if spousal maintenance is an issue. Beginning in January of 2007, social security numbers will no longer be required on petitions and a confidential form is to be used to provide this information to the court. We greatly appreciate Judge Wing's insight and practice pointers.

We have several upcoming bar meetings that we hope you all will find interesting. On November 29, 2006, we have planned a CLE for which you will receive one ethics credit, given by Minnesota Mutual Lawyers. In December, Bob Gordan, a psychologist, will make a presentation on forensic psychological tools relevant

to family, criminal and personal injury cases. We will be requesting CLE credit for this presentation as well.

Please note that, after taking an informal survey from bar members, we are moving the annual holiday party to January this year with the hope that more people will be able to attend. The party will take place on January 18, 2006 at the New Richmond Golf Club starting at 6:00 p.m.

The St Croix County Judges Forum will take place at the St. Croix County Government Center in Hudson on February 28th and we are in the process of arranging the Polk County Judges Forum for April. We are still working on topics for the March meeting. If someone has an idea or would like to hear from a certain group or obtain information on a certain topic, please contact one of the officers so we can take these ideas into consideration as we plan the March meeting. We also are in need of a Roastee for the May meeting and would prefer someone who has been practicing in the area for at least 15 years in order to make the Roast a success.

As the holiday season approaches, I hope that each of you are able to spend the holidays with those who are nearest and dearest to you and I wish all of you and your families a happy and healthy New Year!

TREASURER'S REPORT


Current Checkbook Balance
(as of November 9, 2006):
\$4,428.82.

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. I. 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

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.

 **TURNINGPOINT**
FOR VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL
VIOLENCE, INC

Admin Office PO Box 304 River Falls,
Wisconsin 54022
(715) 425-6751 - (800) 345 5104
* Fax# (713) 425-6908

Outreach Office: 105A So. Knowles
Ave, New Richmond, WI 54017
(715) 246-9216 * (888) 321-9216
* Fax# (715) 246-9103

Turningpoint is looking for Attorneys to accept one pro-bono or low cost case per year, or who would be willing to provide pro-bone services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault to assist them with restraining orders,

harassment orders, and referrals for legal representation in divorce and custody cases. Turningpoint is also in need of donations of State Bar of Wisconsin brochures on topics such as divorce, custody, and placement, or funds to purchase such brochures. If you are interested in volunteering or receiving more information please contact Shannon Nelson at 715-246-9216

**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, December 11, 2006, 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.