

## **THE HONORABLE ROBERT J. BRYAN AMERICAN INN OF COURT CHAPTER XXV STRUCTURE**

### **STRUCTURE**

The Bryan AIC is divided into six Pupilage Teams and one Scholarship Team. Each of our Pupilage Teams is tasked with presenting at one of our monthly meetings during our term, September through May. Our Scholarship Team is tasked with reviewing, selecting, and presenting our annual scholarship to a high school student for excellence in advocacy in the state high school mock trial competition.

### **PUPILAGE TEAM COMPOSITION**

Our Pupilage Teams are comprised of members from each of our experience levels: Benchers (Judges), Masters (Attorneys with more than 10 years of experience), Barristers (Attorneys with between two and 10 years of experience), Associates (Attorneys with less than two years of experience), Law Students.

Our Pupilage Teams include at least two members from each experience level. Our extensive Emeritus Roster (those having served the Bryan AIC meritoriously for at least five years as a Bencher or Master) often volunteer to contribute to our Pupilage Team presentations.

Our Pupilage Team Captains are one of the team's most experienced Benchers; assisted by a Master or other member(s) that have demonstrated a high commitment to excellence in presentations in previous terms.

Our Pupilage Teams are encouraged to present current topics presently impacting the practice of law in our local Courts, our State, our Region, the Nation, and the World. Our Pupilage Teams present "on-point" and up-to-date topics of professionalism, civility, and ethics that include the impact upon our profession of laws recently established/alterd by the most recent elections as well as global concerns arising from the developing "rule of law" in high-conflict regions.

### **SPECIAL PROJECT TEAM COMPOSITION**

Our Scholarship Team is comprised of four members from our Bencher, Master, and Barrister experience levels, and includes our Bryan AIC President. Our Scholarship Team attends the competitions, evaluates the participants, and selects the scholarship winner from the list of candidates. Our Scholarship Team invites the winner and their family to our meeting in April to receive their scholarship and meet our members.

### **FIRST MEETING OF THE TERM**

Our first meeting of the year is an introductory meeting. Our members are seated with their Pupilage Team, and each member introduces themselves to the membership. Two or more of our senior members offer speeches on their career perspective, experience and achievements, as well as the impact the Bryan AIC has had on them individually and upon their career.

Our Pupilage Teams discuss and decide on their presentation topic and submit them in cooperation with our Programs Chair to assure a variety of topics for the term. Development of our presentations remains an ongoing priority throughout the term.

Our new members receive a notebook with essential information (i.e. Mission, Goals, and Creed of the American Inns of Court, our bylaws, etc.) and engage in a special introductory presentation from our Executive Board of Directors about the history of the American Inns of Court and the history and structure of the Bryan AIC.

## PRESENTATION MEETING LOGISTICS

Our Pupilage Team presentations take place at the historical and beautiful U.S. District Court for Western Washington at Tacoma, in the Honorable Robert J. Bryan's Courtroom. Following our presentations, we walk a short distance to one of the fine local restaurants to continue discussion over dinner.

At dinner our Pupilage Teams are seated together to continue work on presentations or plan other gatherings throughout the term intended to enhance our commitment to mentoring. We often invite guest speakers to join us at dinner (i.e. President of the state or local bar associations) to further enhance our time together.

## HOLIDAY/SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Our December meeting is a celebration of the holidays at a local restaurant. Our members are encouraged to bring their spouse, significant other, or prospective member and introduce them to the membership, relax, and enjoy the camaraderie and holiday spirit.

Our May meeting is a tradition – a pizza party at one of our member's homes. For us, this is a time to reflect on the present term, elect the next term's officers, and begin planning the next term. Our pizza party is a tremendous way for our members to celebrate our Inn's achievements.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Our Executive Board is comprised of those members elected to serve as President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Programs Chair, Outreach Chair, Member at Large, and our Administrator. We presently have an AIC Trustee among the members of our Inn, and she sits on our Executive Board and is the liaison to the AIC Board of Trustees.

Our Executive Board meets in person monthly throughout the year, including many additional meetings by telephone and by email. Much of our Executive Board's work occurs during the summer following the June deadline for new member applications. During summer, our Executive Board works to review members' attendance during the prior term, review/change present members experience levels, select new members, establish our membership roster for the upcoming term, establish the schedule, and reserve the venues. Once our membership, schedule, and venues are established our President sends a welcome letter and roster to all members.