



WSBA

TO: Board of Governors

FROM: Anthony Gipe, Immediate Past President
Ann Holmes, Chief Operations Officer
Terra Nevitt, Director of Advancement and Chief Development Officer

RE: Final Update: Sections Policy Workgroup

DATE: September 19, 2016

On August 23, the Board conducted a first reading of revised Bar bylaws, including Article XI SECTIONS. Following the meeting, Sections Policy Workgroup (workgroup) members and staff solicited feedback regarding this article of the Bar bylaws. At its September 15 meeting, the workgroup reviewed the feedback, incorporated several additional revisions, and recommended (all in favor, with one abstention) that the Board approve the proposed Article XI revisions in September.

As directed by the Board, the workgroup has completed its work and is now dissolved. However, the workgroup recommends that the Board and staff continue to facilitate discussions with sections on the following topics:

1. section reserve funds
2. sections and WSBA CLE (including expenses and revenues associated with CLE recorded content)
3. improving engagement between sections and other parts of the Bar,
4. the relationship between section leader volunteers and Bar staff, and
5. a cost/benefit analysis of the value volunteers provide to the organization.

The workgroup believes the first two items involve WSBA policies, are important to section leaders, and should be prioritized.

The workgroup has previously provided the Board with, and posted, meeting agendas, summaries, memos and draft proposals resulting from its deliberations before section leader representatives joined the workgroup in April. Attached are meeting agendas, minutes, and work products of all workgroup meetings held since that time.

Attachment:

- **September 15, 2016:** Sections Policy Workgroup meeting minutes, with final recommended revisions to Article XI of the WSBA Bylaws included with the proposed WSBA Bylaw amendments (item 5h of the September 29-30, 2016 BOG agenda).

Supplemental Materials:

- **August 15, 2016:** Sections Policy Workgroup update memo, with initial proposed revisions to Article XI of the WSBA Bylaws and Sections Policy Workgroup August 12 meeting minutes.
- **July 21, 2016:** Sections Policy Workgroup update memo to Board (March – July 2016, with meeting minutes and materials of April 28, June 6, June 20 and July 11 meetings)

Sections Policy Workgroup

Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2016

The Sections Policy Workgroup meeting began its final meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 15. The meeting focused on: (1) feedback received regarding proposed changes to Article XI of the bar bylaws, (2) how sections might support each other financially, and (3) future discussion topics. Present at the meeting were the following workgroup members: Chair Gipe, President-elect Haynes, Governors Black, Brady, Danieli, Davis, and Wilson; section leaders Edlund, Hunter, Reed, and Swegle; and WSBA employees Eriksen, Holmes, McElroy, and Nevitt. WSBA Executive Director Littlewood and employees Unite, Terrenzio, and Plachy also attended. Kimberlee Thornton and Kevin Fay attended as guests. Workgroup members Doane, Lynch, and Stephens were not present for the meeting.

1. Feedback on Proposed Revisions to Article XI of the Bar Bylaws

Workgroup members discussed feedback received from WSBA members regarding the proposed changes to Article XI of the Bar bylaws. Based on this feedback, and the additional suggestions from members of the workgroup, the following changes were made to the proposed changes of Article XI of the Bar bylaws:

- Article XI.C.2, the term 'judicial member' was added to enable individual sections to further define voting members of the section to include judicial members.
- Article XI.F.1, this provision was revised to clarify that an individual section may define voting members of its section. This clarification was also added to XI.F.2.
- Article XI.H.1, the term "voting" was removed in the first sentence to align with XI.H.2.
- Article XI.J, a phrase was added to reference Bar fiscal policies and procedures for clarity.
- Minor scrivener changes were made to change all uses of the word 'shall' to 'will' or 'must', and to be sure capitalization and terminology are consistent with the rest of the bar bylaws.

Members agreed (with one abstention) to present the attached proposed changes to Article XI of the bar bylaws for Board action at the September meeting.

2. Financial Support Among Sections

The workgroup discussed how section reserve funds could be used to support programming by sections without adequate funds, including: (a) creating a voluntary pool of funds; (b) facilitating direct contributions from one section to another for a specific purpose or need; and (c) collaboration between sections on specific projects or programs.

The workgroup also discussed what, if any, limit should be placed on the amount of funds accrued in a section's reserve, expressing general agreement that perhaps a percentage of direct expenses should be used as a limit; and that the topic warranted a more in-depth discussion.

3. Future Discussion Topics

The workgroup identified other topics to address in the next several years. In addition to section reserves, other suggested topics include: sections and CLE (including expenses and revenues associated with CLE recorded content), improving engagement between sections and other parts of the Bar, the relationship between section leader volunteers and bar staff, and a cost/benefit analysis of the value volunteers provide to the organization.

The workgroup noted that policies regarding section reserves and CLEs were particularly important to address. The workgroup also agreed that some topics might best be covered at the staff/volunteer level while policy level items would be considered by the Board.

The section leader members of the Workgroup expressed interest in assisting if and when the Board convenes future discussions on the above topics. The workgroup also recommended that Board and staff more actively solicit input from the sections, particularly given their subject matter expertise in a variety of areas.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

For questions, comments or feedback, contact me directly or email sections@wsba.org

Thank you,

Anthony David Gipe, Chair of the Sections Policy Workgroup
Immediate Past President, WSBA