

LOW BONO SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 15, 2016

Present: John Varga, Peter Houck, Joe Terrenzio, Kendel Froese, Forrest Carlson

Present via phone: Pete Roberts, Mikel Sagoian, Veronica Smith-Casem, Stacie Naczelnik

Location: Anderson, York & Stratton
150 Nickerson St. – Suite 311
Seattle, WA 98109

John Varga chaired the meeting.

1. **Introductions**

2. **General Announcements**

Mikel attended a meeting with representatives from ARAG at WSBA last week. ARAG is a legal insurance company from Germany that has been around for decades offering employee benefits for larger companies, but is now going to begin offering individual plans. The possibility of offering the plan as a WSBA benefit was discussed, as was how the benefit could relate to increasing access to affordable legal services. The conversation is in early stages.

3. **Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 2016 meeting of the Executive Committee, with a correction made to the spelling of Mary Sakaguchi's last name. The motion was seconded and carried.

4. **WSBA Announcements (Joe Terrenzio)**

The section leaders fall meeting took place, and Forrest Carlson participated as a presenter.

The Board of Governors (BOG) is expected to vote at meeting of the BOG this Friday on amendments to the WSBA bylaws, article 11, which affects sections. If approved, it would be effective January 1, 2017, and will require all WSBA sections to amend their bylaws to conform to new requirements. WSBA staff anticipates a one-year transition and implementation period.

The legislative primer for sections who wish to participate in legislative action is scheduled for December 12, 2016.

January 19, 2017 is Open Sections Night in Seattle.

5. **Communications Committee Report (Stacie Naczelnik)**

The Communications Committee has 3 members and has decided to change directions slightly to have its own members take responsibility for authoring more articles so that we can publish more frequently. The hope is that with more publishing, more people will learn about low bono and become interested in writing articles themselves. The next meeting of the committee is 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM on December 12, 2016 at the same location as this meeting. Those who wish to attend by phone should contact Stacie ahead of time for call-in information.

6. **Treasurer Report (Stacie Naczelnik for Celeste Miller)**

Nothing new to report. According to Joe Terrenzio, the WSBA's annual report is due soon, after which additional financial information will become available to sections.

7. **Membership Committee (Stacie Naczelnik for Celeste Mille)**

The social event on November 3 with LLLTs had about 8–9 attendees, and small attendance likely was due to the event being announced too late. The event, itself, was a good program. The written report from Celeste indicates that it was easy to work with Joe Terrenzio to arrange a bartender, and the process of reserving space at the WSBA headquarters was simple. Joe Terrenzio added that with changes to the WSBA bylaws, LLLTs either are or will soon be active members of the WSBA, which may result in them being entitled to be voting members and officers of sections.

8. **Cancellation of December Executive Committee Meeting**

A motion was made to cancel the December meeting of the Executive Committee, as has been done in past years due to holidays and people generally being unavailable. The motion was seconded and carried.

9. **Education Committee (Veronica Smith-Casem)**

Planning for the full-day CLE is on track. The event's title will be "The Money Barrier." Segments include a practitioner panel on how to do low bono, and speakers on what is low bono, technology and access to justice, protecting your own mental health doing low bono, attorney fee awards for low bono clients, and more. The memorandum of understanding is in progress. Veronica is shifting the committee toward promoting the event and briefly led a discussion asking various members of the Executive Committee to commit to getting the word about the event out on various channels.

We should start thinking about the possibility of using the WSBA's webinar tool to offer free mini CLEs. Veronica has been informed that Seattle University School of Law may need to begin to charge (approximately \$20) for their previously free CLE series, so handling mini-CLEs on our own may be the only way to keep them free for our members. WSBA's webinar tool costs the section \$100 per event. Attendance can be made free. It is a screen-sharing tool with audio and an online chat function, but no ability for on-screen presenters.

10. **Banner Update (Forrest Carlson)**

Since the last meeting, the designer provided a mockup of 4 different banner designs, and via email the Executive Committee discussed and agreed that the vertically-oriented banner with a thin white border was the preferred of the 4 designs. A motion was made to present the one preferred design to the WSBA for approval, or else for any design changes that may be required before the actual banner can be ordered. The motion was seconded and carried. Forrest agreed to present the design to Joe Terrenzio for this purpose.

11. **Fall Section Leaders Meeting Recap (Forrest Carlson)**

The fall section leaders meeting was unlike similar meetings in past years in that there seemed to be a lot more audience engagement during the event, and many conversations between section leaders who attended the event. Several comments were made that include the desire of many section leaders to get together and work on ideas for improving sections and section leadership. Possibilities included socials and a possible retreat. There is an opportunity to continue to push forward on these ideas, should we so choose, as no section leader has taken initiative yet to make any of these ideas a reality.

12. **Discussion: Section Goals (John Varga)**

Stacie Naczelnik urges the Executive Committee to explore opportunities for engagement at all 3 Washington State law schools. Kendel Froese suggests there is a great lack of awareness among law students of the concept of low bono, and that repeat encounters with the phrase “low bono” would be enough to get law students thinking about it. She also mentioned UW Law School holds Social Justice Tuesdays, which are an opportunity for us to communicate with students. Free food is a good way to get law students’ attention. Peter Houck and Forrest Carlson indicated that encouraging low bono practitioners to take on law student interns would be a good way to not only raise awareness of low bono, generally, but also to encourage students to choose low bono as a possible career path while still in law school.

Meeting Adjourned