

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Comstock. Present were Executive Committee members Al Armstrong, Steve DeForest, Eleanor Doermann, Joe Gordon, Jim Riehl, Dudley Panchot and Carole Grayson. Attending by phone were Jeanine Lutzenhiser and Morrie Shore. Not Able to be present were BOG Liaison Tom McBride, Devorah Signer-Hill of the WSBA, Pat Mead of the WSBA, Scott Osborne, and Ron Thompson,

CHAIR'S REPORT

Brian convened our meeting. He urged the attendees to continue to search out and recruit new Executive Committee members. Later in the meeting, Dudley said that the most effective manner in recruiting would be at our annual CLE, in a person-to-person manner.

Brian also noted that, this being a new calendar year, there are other matters that need addressing.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al's minutes of our November 19 meeting, were approved by Motion.

Al asked for and received clarification regarding our Section's Emeritus members.

WSBA'S SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTION PROCESS

Brian reminded us that the WSBA's Executive Committee election requirements and that deadlines will soon be upon us. He noted that the required election process is somewhat complex, and called for a volunteer to help us sort out this process and determine what steps are required and when these steps need to be taken. Joe graciously stepped forward to serve in this regard. He will take the lead and will inform us of what needs to be done to ensure a bylaw-compliant process.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our Treasurer Ron is still dealing with some health issues that have recently required his re-hospitalization. In Ron's absence, Brian secured and circulated via email monthly financial records from the WSBA, dealing respectively with the months of September, October and November 2019 relative to our Section's income and expenses. As of November 30, 2019 our fund balance was \$8,198.38.

We continue to wish Ron the best and look forward to seeing him soon.

CHANGE OF SECTION NAME

It was the consensus of the Committee members that although some members favored a change of name, this feeling was not unanimous, so for now our Section name will remain as is.

WHAT CONSTITUTES “BEING PRESENT” AT OUR MEETINGS FOR VOTING PURPOSES

There was some discussion about whether Executive Committee members attending our meeting by telephone could vote on Motions before the Committee. Brian had his doubts, based upon Articles 4.3 and 4.4 of our Bylaws. It was the consensus, however, that Committee members attending via telephone were indeed sufficiently present to allow them to vote.

OUR ON-GOING MISSION TASK FORCE

Brian continues to voice his concern about our declining Section membership and CLE attendance. Jim stated that we need more in-put from women; we can’t prosper by being a group of “old White guys.”

Brian called for a re-invigorated subcommittee, noting that some equivalent “senior lawyers” sections across the country have failed, while others have prospered. This concern, said Brian, is “high on our agenda.” Several members immediately volunteered to work on this subcommittee, but initially no one wished to act as the Chair. However, during the meeting, Carole and Eleanor came up with a creative solution to the who-wants-to-be-subcommittee-Chair question: they would both act as co-Chairs of this subcommittee.

OUR MAY 1, 2020 CLE PROGRESS REPORT

Carole, our CLE subcommittee chair, reported that she had confirmed seven speakers for our May 2020 CLE. She had emailed the Committee members her list of confirmed presenters. She felt that King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg might be the keynote speaker. Miriam Korngold and an as-yet not named attorney will co-present on the topic of unaccompanied minors in immigration matters. Executive Committee member Jim Riehl will speak about his experiences as an ABA-sponsored advisor to judicial officials in Kosovo and Albania; he thought he might center his speech on the process of judicial retirement and subsequent international consultant. Retired Pierce County Executive John Ladenberg will address the complexities of establishing the Chambers Bay Golf Course. Retired King County Superior Court Judge Kim Prochnau, Executive Committee member Scott Osborne (who could address changes in landlord/tenant law and affordable housing), and Anne Seidel (who could speak on ethics and incapacitated clients) are three additional confirmed presenters. Carole thought that Ms. Prochnau could recount her experiences founding a mediation firm after having retired from her judgeship. Carole is awaiting a response from U.W. Law School Professor Bill Covington, who, as Director of the law school’s Technology Law and Policy Clinic, could address the accomplishments and goals of this entity. [Subsequent to our meeting, Carole informed us that Professor Covington had confirmed his CLE appearance.]

Steve suggested we have a good speaker on board for a late-afternoon presentation to keep our audience from leaving early.

Devorah would be the one to do the scheduling of the speakers.

Brian thought that we need to have a catchy CLE theme. Steve suggested “Bridging the Gap” and “A Time of Change.” It was estimated that we may need nine speakers confirmed; this would depend upon the time allotted to each presenter.

Regarding publicity about our CLE, Jim suggested we ask the presenters (after they have been confirmed and scheduled) to spread the word about our CLE. Carole suggested that we could post notices of our CLE on our listserv.

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Brian noted that he had heard complaints that our Executive Committee has not been communicating with our Section membership adequately. Brian wanted to make sure that we communicate not only with our current Section membership but all WSBA members who may be interested in joining our Section. Eleanor agreed and indicated that the best way to do this might be to divide our efforts to address the “big picture”—that is, all who are eligible to be Section members and the “small picture”—those attorneys who are already members of our Section.

Brian indicated that he will tell Scott he (Scott) can convene the Publication Subcommittee prior to the next meeting or we can come up with a plan of action at the next meeting. A Motion was proposed and adopted to proceed in this manner.

Al suggested our new publication could feature regular travelogues and other information along those lines. All attorneys sometimes like to daydream about going to sunny and exotic places, and these feature could make whatever publication we come up with eagerly anticipated by our readership.

OTHER BUSINESS

Carole had some welcome information: the WSBA will apparently change the name of its magazine back to Bar News.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian adjourned the meeting upon Carole’s Motion.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place at the Broadmoor Golf Club at 10:30 am on February 18, 2020.

