

**SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

JUNE 16, 2020

This meeting was our fourth consecutive meeting conducted entirely by phone, again due to the coronavirus crisis. As in the last meeting, we met through Zoom. The following Executive Committee members were present at this meeting: Chair Eleanor Doermann, Brian Comstock, Steve DeForest, Al Armstrong, Ron Thompson, Joe Gordon, Jim Riehl, Dudley Panchot, Morrie Shore, Carole Grayson and Eileen Trang of the WSBA. Not able to be present were BOG Liaison Tom McBride, Scott Osborne and Jeanine Lutzenhiser.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Eleanor indicated that we would proceed with the meeting somewhat out of order relative to the circulated Agenda, as a WSBA representative, Shanthi Raghu, was present at the moment to discuss the Bar's method of CLE accounting and budgeting

FINANCIAL FIGURES FROM OUR MAY 1, 2019 CLE

Ron and several members of the Committee had questions about the WSBA-issued CLE financial statement relative to our 2019 CLE. This statement had been circulated previously by Eleanor. Specifically, we wanted to know how the figure of \$17,361.68, set forth by the Bar as "indirect expenses" was calculated. Ms. Raghu explained that indirect expenses—those costs attributed to work-hours expended by Bar personnel, is calculated by multiplying the CLE credits offered for a given CLE (in our case, 7 credit-hours) by the sum of \$2,480.24. This gives an indirect expense figure of \$17,361.68, which figure is set forth in the Bar's financial statement. The figure of \$2,480.24 per credit-hour is reached by adding up all the credit-hours offered by all WSBA CLEs (a total of 385) which figure is then divided into the sum of the salaries, benefits and overhead attributed to the development and delivery of the aforementioned CLEs. This renders the \$2,480.24 per credit-hour figure used in the calculation outlined above. Ron expressed concern that we will not be adding many more new members this year because we did not get the boost of new members that we usually obtain as a result of the discount offered for our annual CLE.

At any rate, the WSBA now absorbs any losses incurred by any WSBA-sponsored CLE program. In our case, we had a loss of \$13,060.52 on our May 1, 2019 CLE. Ms. Raghu assured us that this loss does not mean our CLE wasn't a success.

Ron opined that he is concerned about a similar loss should we hold our CLE in October, even given the fact that our Section is no longer liable for losses sustained.

Ms. Raghu stated that more revenue for our Section could be realized through future purchases, by WSBA members, of on-demand seminars featuring this CLE.

DO WE GO FORWARD WITH OUR CLE IN OCTOBER?

There was concern at our meeting as to whether we should follow through with our tentative plan to present our CLE program on October 30. The uncertainty was grounded in our realization that the pandemic lockdown might in fact not be over by the end of October. One question before the Committee was “what is the last date we could give up our October 30 reservation with Marriott without incurring a penalty.” Ms. Raghu said she has inquired about this date and is waiting for a return call from the Marriott regarding this. It was noted that if we elect to cancel the October date with the Marriott, there were still two options: we could conduct a virtual CLE on the October 30 date or we could just postpone our CLE until next May. Ms. Raghu noted that if we do a virtual presentation on the October date, the direct expenses would certainly decrease. Carole indicated that an in-person CLE would be preferred. Steve agreed, and added that he remains pessimistic about being able to present our CLE in a live format in October, pointing out that most of our attendees would be leery of attending an in-person CLE so soon due to their age-related vulnerability to the virus. It was also mentioned that our presenters may also feel unsafe. Al suggested we consider just delaying the affair until next May. Eleanor said we need a timeline with a date by which we have to decide how to proceed. Jim was concerned that we wouldn’t necessarily know anything more by our July meeting relative to whether to proceed in October, and said we should make a decision as soon as possible. Ron stated that he was concerned about our 2019 CLE revenue, even though he realized our Section would not be personally on the line for any deficits. Eleanor said she wants us to make a decision no later than our July meeting.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Al’s minutes of our May 2020 meeting were approved by Motion.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ron presented his Treasurer’s Report, reflecting our finances as of April 30, 2020. “There’s not much to report,” said Ron. During March, we had one new member, and after the Bar took its per-member charge, we netted \$6.25. Ron noted that, as of the end of April, our Section had 224 members, although our budget for the current fiscal year assumed a membership of 260. “Our membership trend is certainly downward.”

Ron also had prepared two options relative to a proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The two alternatives differed insofar as Option Two showed slightly less Section dues revenue, a lower net realization from our mini-CLE, and a smaller anticipated expenditure for our newsletter/publication. Ron opined that Option Two was in all likelihood the more realistic choice. Option two was adopted by Motion; Ron’s Treasurer’s Report was also approved pursuant to the same Motion.

MINI-CLE

Eleanor and Carole indicated that there is not much activity going with respect to our mini-CLE, as at this time we have not yet determined how and when we will present our main (full-length) CLE. It was suggested that if we do not go forward with our October affair, we should then consider sponsoring a mini-CLE webinar.

OUR BROADMOOR REGULAR MEETING VENUE

The Broadmoor Clubhouse is still closed due to the pandemic. Eileen Trang has been in contact with Annie Weaver at Broadmoor and will inform us as to our venue's eventual opening.

NEW SECTIONS PROGRAM COORINATOR

Eileen Trang has been promoted to Sections Program Specialist; her place as Sections Program Coordinator has been taken by Carolyn MacGregor. It is unclear at this time which of these individuals will be our WSBA Liaison.

SECTION MEMBERS ELECTION AND POSSIBLE NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

All current members of our Section Executive Committee have been reelected. There were 56 total votes cast, representing 27% of the Section membership. There was some concern voiced as some E.C. members did not receive their electronic ballots.

Attorney Mike Frost, who acted as the “non-E.C. member” of our Nomination Committee, has indicated an interest in becoming an E.C. member. Eleanor will contact Mr. Frost about this.

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Dudley renewed his suggestion that we institute an email newsletter. Jim outlined a process by which we could start such a newsletter: “We should do it in baby steps.” He explained that we could start the process by just including, initially, some description of what the Executive Committee is doing relative to this or that project, and build up the newsletter from there. He didn’t want to merely send our Agenda or meeting Minutes, which he felt would not be of much interest. Al agreed. Said Jim, “Let’s start out small.” Brian wanted to send this publication to a wider readership than just to Section members. “We gotta do something,” urged Brian, pointing out that we must get the word out to the WSBA membership as to what our Section is all about. Brian was adamant that we get going on this project. He suggested that if anyone had any ideas they should email them to him. Eleanor agreed that we should seek a broader audience than our Section membership.

Disseminating the newsletter via the WSBA listserv was considered. Carole wanted to know whether our Section’s listserv is transmitted on an “opt-in or opt-out” basis—whether the potential recipient need to ask for it to be sent or ask that it not be. Eleanor suggested that we distribute our communications outside of listserv.

Morrie volunteered to work on this but asked for someone else to join him. Eleanor said she would work with Morrie. Morrie also said we must do our best to reach out to others.

TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEE

Brian said that the Task Force Subcommittee had a good meeting in January. He indicated that he looked forward to more such meetings. Jim said that he agreed with Carole that we should table work by this Subcommittee until the end of the year. Brian noted that senior lawyer sections of other bar associations had been failing but have found ways to prosper.

Eleanor said we could take up these questions at our next meeting.

DIPLOMA PRIVILEGE AND RECENT BAR EXAM PASSAGE RATE

Carole mentioned that the Washington State Supreme Court has decided to grant “diploma privilege,” that is, waive the bar exam, for those registered to take the test in July and September. This action was occasioned by the disruption due to the current health crisis. Carole said she would send us the relevant Supreme Court order.

ADJOURNMENT

Eleanor adjourned the meeting.

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on July 21st at 10:30 am.