

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION  
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**September 17, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Comstock. Present were Executive Committee members Al Armstrong, Carole Grayson, Dudley Panchot, Steve DeForest, Joe Gordon, Eleanor Doermann and Morrie Shore (by phone.) Not able to be present were Pat Mead of the WSBA, Kevin Platchy of the WSBA, Jim Riehl, Scott Osborne, Ron Thompson and Jeanine Lutzenhiser.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Brian again voiced concern about the 14,000+ attorneys whom we should be actively recruiting for membership in our Section. The Chair again urged us to renew our efforts in this respect. Relative to possible additions to our Executive Committee, Dudley again mentioned Spokane attorney Tom Culbertson as a possibility.

**PASSING OF ROY MOCERI, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER EMERITUS**

We sadly noted the August 15 death of one of our emeritus members, Roy Mocerri. A former President of the Washington State Bar Association, Roy served our Committee for many years, acting as our Treasurer prior to his retirement.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Al mentioned that he had recirculated via email the Executive Committee Roster. He also brought and passed around hard copies of the new Roster.

Al's June 2019 Executive Meeting Minutes were approved by Motion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ron was unable to attend today's meeting personally due to medical issues, but had circulated via email his Treasurer's Report, which reflected a balance, as of May 31, 2019, of \$6,7416. Ron mentioned that we are \$1,586.84 ahead of our budget, but he noted that this surplus is due to our decision to forgo our by-regular-mail newsletter. Ron also stated our Section membership is currently 60 members short of the total that was assumed by our current budget. "The trend is certainly downward."

The Committee reaffirmed our June 2019 adoption of Ron's budget proposal for the following fiscal year.

## **CLE 2020**

Kevin has reserved space at our traditional CLE venue, the Airport Marriott. It was mentioned that Marriott has done away with their swimming pool, where in most years our lunch is served. Joe noted that, with no indoor pool, this will at least make our lunch a less humid affair. It was agreed that we need to take no procedural action to affirm Kevin's actions in securing the venue, as he was previously given authority by our Committee to act in our behalf in this regard. The CLE is scheduled to take place on Friday, May 1, 2020.

Carole remarked that the current CLE Subcommittee worked well for the 2019 CLE.

Brian noted that our CLE programs have been excellent but the attendance is on the decline and we must do something to stem this trend.

Joe volunteered to join the current CLE subcommittee. Joe also added a note of optimism about our declining CLE attendance; he recalled attending the first senior lawyer CLE many years ago, and the attendance was smaller than the number that showed up for our 2019 affair. He also said that he enjoyed meeting old friends and colleagues at our CLEs.

Steve said that we perhaps should accept the lower attendance figures and not worry about demographic factors that we can't change. Eleanor agreed, stating that there are a lot of matters that can affect CLE attendance, and we have no control over these. Morrie indicated that many older lawyers have resigned from the Bar, and many people want to attend more specialized CLE programs. Dudley indicated that the demographics are changing, but he still very much enjoys attending our programs. Brian countered that he does not at all wish to close the door on the expansion of our Section and our CLE attendance, and again urged us all to work to grow this Section. Brian made it clear that we must increase our Section membership and become creative about attracting more of the baby boomers to our banner.

It was suggested by Morrie to have a speaker addressing the immigration questions of the day. Dudley supported this. Steve cautioned that issues in this area can change between now and May 1. Morrie also said he wished to continue on the CLE subcommittee.

Some other suggested speakers: Former Washington State Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge, Auburn attorney Bob Van Siclén and U.W. Dean Mario Barnes. Eleanor suggested a speaker familiar with the Opioid class action now pending. Carole said she would contact someone about this. Morrie suggested Retired General and former Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Barry McCaffery, who resides in the Seattle area. Jim Leach, the W.S. U. football coach and an attorney, was mentioned. Morrie suggested that we might want to attract a big-named speaker by offering an honorarium. Carole mentioned Dan Satterberg, current King County Prosecutor.

## **STEVE'S COLLECTION OF OUR PAST CLE MANUALS**

Steve, announcing that he is in the process of decluttering, brought a box of old Senior Lawyers' CLE manuals from past years. He was concerned that if he destroyed them, there would be no record of our past CLEs. Carole suggested that Steve just photocopy the tables of contents of the manuals, which would sufficient record of our CLE presentations. Brian said he would contact the Bar to see if the WSBA had copies or records of our past Marriott gatherings. [subsequent to our meeting, Steve contacted Kevin about this. Kevin told Steve that the Bar keeps records for seven years, and that he (Kevin) may have records that go back farther than that. Steve indicated to us through email that he will destroy the records that he has.

## **SECTION NAME CHANGE**

Dudley stated that perhaps Steve has been right all along, that maybe our Section could benefit from a change of name. It was decided to consider a name change at our October meeting. Carole said we should make a decision soon, as the BOG has to approve such a move and it may take some time for the BOG to act.

## **MINI-CLE**

Eleanor, our mini-CLE chair, was upbeat about our upcoming mini-CLE, set for September 30. She urged everyone to register for this. She said that setting up the CLE was not as formidable a task as she had anticipated. The two excellent presenters (Jeanne Marie Clavere and Stacey Romberg) are confirmed as speakers. Eleanor said that she made the mini-CLE free to Section members, so as to illustrate to non-members one more advantage of joining Senior Lawyers. For non-members, the tuition is \$35. One ethics CLE credit will be given. Eleanor urged all of us to register as soon as possible and not to wait until the last minute.

## **PUBLICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE NAME CHANGE MADE OFFICIAL**

Due to the agreed-upon change of format of our contemplated newsletter (email as opposed to regular mail), the Committee formally approved of a name change from the "Publications Subcommittee" to the "Communications Subcommittee."

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Brian adjourned the meeting.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place at the Broadmoor Golf Club at

10:30 am on October 15, 2019.

