

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 21, 2020

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

CHAIR’S REPORT

This was Eleanor’s first meeting acting solely at the helm. Eleanor suggested that we begin our meeting with a discussion about our on-going nomination process, and introduced attorney Michael Frost to the Executive Committee. Mr. Frost indicated that he would be glad to be the “non-Executive Committee” member of our Nomination Subcommittee.

NOMINATION SUBCOMMITTEE AND THE ELECTION PROCESS

Brian indicated that he sent the WSBA our slate of candidates for election to our Executive Committee in January, and had sent this again yesterday. We again reaffirmed the names of those on our ballot. With Michael Frost officially serving on the Nomination Subcommittee (along with Dudley and Jeanine) Brian said he would again send our candidate roster to the Bar, with an amendment naming Mr. Frost as a member of our Nomination Subcommittee. The Subcommittee, including Mr. Frost, was to meet later in the day to formally conclude the nomination process.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Al’s minutes of our March 17 meeting were approved by Motion.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Eleanor welcomed Ron’s return to our meetings, as he has been unable to attend the last several functions. Ron indicated that he is still recovering and that “I am thankful that I am here.”

Eleanor indicated that yesterday she received the Bar’s Statement of Activities reflecting our financial position as of the end of February, at the 41% mark of this current fiscal year. She indicated that we should have the March report by the end of April. Relative to the February Statement, it reflects a year-to-date gross income of \$5,500. The per-member WSBA charges, which total \$4,125 for the year, results in a net income (also subtracting conference call and executive committee charges totaling \$89.63 and \$225.64 respectively) of \$1,059.73. According to our projected fiscal year budget, we predicted a net income by this time of \$81.25, so we are more flush than predicted. However, Ron pointed out that the per-member charges indicated a

current Section membership of about 220, 40 short of our goal of 260. We had projected a gross per-member year-to-date total of \$6,500. Also, Ron pointed out that we haven't spent anything for our newsletter, the expense of which was estimated at \$2,000, which if spent would have made our financial status more precarious.

THE CHAIR'S SUMMATION OF RECENT WSBA PRONOUNCEMENTS

Bar President Rajeev Majumdar has issued several orders promoting WSBA personnel working remotely when possible while striving to maintain essential services. Also, the WSBA has convened a Coronavirus Response Task Force to aid members and the public during the current emergency. Additionally, our State Supreme Court has ordered the publication of a proposed amendment to APR 26 which would require attorneys in private practice to maintain malpractice insurance. President Majumdar noted the WSBA's past opposition to this requirement and has created an ad hoc committee to address possible alternatives to mandatory malpractice insurance.

SENIOR LAWYER SUBCOMMITTEE TASK FORCE

Carole indicated that Paris Erickson of the WSBA has sent her some information dealing with unified bar associations. Eleanor said she and Carole will take a look at this. Brian said he had some other material dealing with other senior lawyer-equivalent committees of other bar associations and he would forward this material to the subcommittee. He also would forward some material he received from founding member Phil DeTurk that might be appropriate for our future publication, whatever form that takes. Carole suggested the Task Force meet in about a month.

ANNUAL CLE

Brian said that we should keep our CLE faculty informed of our plans as we go along. Jim indicated that we should let our faculty know about our (new) October 30 date, and thought that most of our speakers would still be available on that date. Eleanor said she thought that our October 30 CLE date is confirmed.

MINI CLE

Eleanor mentioned that Devorah Signer-Hill indicated to her that we should start making plans soon for the mini CLE as the WSBA will have a lot on its hands once the virus emergency has passed and business returns to normal. Eleanor said she would want at least six weeks notice of the date of the mini-CLE. Eleanor said she would appreciate some ideas about possible topics for the mini CLE.

THERE WILL BE AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN MAY

It was decided that our Executive Committee will meet in May, as our CLE scheduled for that month has been set over to October.

The possibility of employing the ZOOM format (allowing meeting participants to see each other in real time) at future meetings if the social distancing protocol has not ended. Jeanine noted that

visual cues can be important. But Jim cautioned that there are a lot of questions about Zoom and we might not want to obligate ourselves to a firm commitment to Zoom. Carole mentioned that she understands that there have been issues with “Zoom bombing” carried out by troublemaking third parties. Jim suggested that we defer the issue of using Zoom until our May meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Jim stated that he didn’t have much in the way of updates on our communications efforts, as the past few weeks of coronavirus-centric existence has monopolized our attention. Brian suggested that Communications Subcommittee schedule another telephonic meeting and pick up where they left off.

YOUNG LAWYER LIAISON MATTER

Jeanine affirmed that the Bar did not receive any applications from individuals wishing to assume the role of our Section’s Liaison with the Young Lawyer’s Section. Carole said she would contact her law school to try to procure someone who became an attorney later in life and thus would be eligible to belong both to the Senior Lawyers and Young Lawyers Sections. She mentioned two campus groups as potential sources of a volunteer: Parents Attending Law School plus a support organization for those starting second careers.

MAINTAINING OUR IN-PERSON MEETING VENUE

Ron asked if anyone has contacted Broadmoor to assure them that we still wish to maintain the Broadmoor Clubhouse as our Senior Lawyers’ meeting place when the social distancing orders end. Brian suggested that Scott be contacted to find out if Scott would like to call Broadmoor (Scott is on the Board of the Broadmoor Golf Club) about this or would he like Eleanor to do it. Brian noted that we have met at our current venue for many years.

ADJOURNMENT

Eleanor adjourned the meeting.

Absent further directives by the Powers that Be, our next meeting will take place on May 19 at 10:30 am on a telephonic basis.