

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
April 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carole Grayson. Also present were Executive Committee members Al Armstrong, Brian Comstock, Don Haley, Dudley Panchot, Ron Mattson, Ron Thompson, Morrie Shore (by phone), Steve DeForest, Karen Klein (by phone), Juliane Unite of the WSBA, and Kevin Plachy (by phone) also of the WSBA. Not able to be present were BOG Liaison Jill Karmy, Steve Crossland, Jerry Jager, Scott Osbourne, Eleanor Doermann, Tom Wampold John Bergmann and Jerome Scowcroft.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Carole indicated that her replacement at the U.W. had been tentatively chosen as her retirement approached.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE March 21, 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

The Minutes of the March 21, 2017 Executive Committee meeting were approved by Motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ron T. prepared and circulated the Treasurer's Report, with figures as of February, 2017. We had a small net loss for February. We gained 23 members during that month, resulting in gross income of \$575. The total per-member charge of \$431.25, plus the meeting room expenses of \$250.68 came to \$681.93, which, set off against our gross income, gives us our net loss of \$106.93.

Our 23 new members brings our total Section membership to 260. We had 295 members as of the same time in 2016. Ron said that perhaps we will secure more members as our CLE approaches.

Ron reported that we are currently \$48.37 ahead of our September 30, 2016 opening balance of \$9,357.04. Ron cautioned that we have additional expenses before our fiscal year is out, such as two editions of our newsletter and the unknown factor of any gain/loss relative to our upcoming CLE.

Ron also distributed a preliminary draft of our fiscal year 2018 Budget Request. The final draft is due in June, which may be before we have the crucial net income figure from our CLE.

Ron also circulated a copy of the WSBA Statement of Activities, reflecting our financial status as of February 28.

The Treasurer's Report was approved by Motion.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al gave a summation of the program at the Spring Section Leaders' Conference, held at the offices of the WSBA on April 14. The Conference addressed three areas: Budget planning for fiscal year 2018; WSBA sections and CLEs; and section bylaws alignment. Al indicated that the budget planning documents will be sent out prior to May 30, with the Budget Request Worksheet due by July 14. Al noted that the bylaws changes need to be worked out either by April 27, to be approved at the BOG meeting scheduled for May 18-19, or by June 29, to be approved at the July 29-30 BOG meeting. This means we will want to complete our changes no later than our June 20th Executive Committee meeting. General section membership terms will begin on January 1, starting January 2018. (Executive Committee Officers' terms will continue to begin on October 1, ending on September 30 of the following calendar year, in line with WSBA's fiscal year.)

An ideal CLE planning timeline was set forth by the WSBA. Alcohol may be provided at the larger-attended CLE's so long as the alcohol service is done completely through third parties. For smaller sections, those sections must coordinate the serving of alcohol through the WSBA. The attendees were reminded that sections could sponsor mini-CLEs, and not have to worry about the WSBA's cut, because, unlike full CLEs, the WSBA does not claim any percentage of the income generated therefrom. There is a 2-hour limit for Mini-CLEs.

With regard to election of section officers, sections must submit their ballots to the WSBA for electronic, section-wide voting. Nominees may be identified on these ballots as incumbents.

LIFE BEGINS

Ron M. reported that the final draft of the next issue of Life Begins has been sent to the WSBA. There was concern that the Bar is taking too long to review the contents of our current issue (containing publicity and a registration form relative to our CLE) in light of the relatively short time until the event. Julianne said the draft of Life Begins is currently being reviewed by the Bar, and that several Bar departments, pursuant to current Bar protocol, review the document, with each department having its own mission. Carole expressed some irritation that in years past the Bar just reviewed section publications to guard against potentially libelous statements. Now, she noted, the placement of commas and such have become a Bar concern, an example of "scope creep." Julianne said she would help ensure that Life Begins will be sent as soon as possible. Ron M. said he was concerned that the newsletter would only be going out to Section membership a week prior to the CLE.

DISCUSSION OF CLE ISSUES

Carole suggested that our emailed registration forms should be sent to our Section membership already partially filled in for convenience of potential CLE attendees. Steve agreed, adding that many older folks are Luddites insofar as computers are concerned, "but then again, why should we expect the Bar to make up for our deficiencies?" There is another e-blast scheduled. Carole indicated she wanted to see it before it went out. Kevin said that was fine. It was mentioned that attachments to e-blasts are not technically possible, but such e-blasts could provide a link to the WSBA's "CLE Store."

Brian indicated that our Governor definitely would not be available to speak.

There was general agreement that our publicity postcard was well done.

Steve's book contest: A book from Steve's library will be awarded to the two E.C members who contact the most potential CLE attendees, as in past years.

It was mentioned that four sponsors had been lined up but one of those had not been finalized. A couple of other potential sponsors were discussed. Brian suggested that we mention our sponsors in our welcoming speech. Dudley suggested each of us personally thank the sponsors at the scene. Al mentioned that perhaps a personal letter from our Committee would be appropriate afterward. Kevin said he would secure the contact names and addresses. It was decided that we should write letters both to the respective contact people as well as the people at the table.

It was reported that we had 53 CLE registrations thus far, including 6 webcast (remote) attendees.

There was some concern because one CLE speaker had indicated availability but we have not heard directly from her. Dudley wondered if we should have another speaker on deck in the event the speaker couldn't appear. However, it was mentioned by Karen that throughout her dealings with the speaker, we shouldn't worry.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Steve thanked Julianne for her work helping our subcommittee draft the new bylaws. He noted that he wished to have the Section bylaws amended in time for approval by the BOG at its June meeting. He noted that the procedure for election of our officers (and election of the other members of the Executive Committee) would not take effect until next year. This year, the elections will take place in our usual manner.

It was mentioned that, under the new bylaws, the Executive Committee members' terms of office shall begin on January 1, while the terms of the Executive Committee officers will commence at the start of the WSBA's fiscal year, October 1.

Carole introduced a Motion to cap Executive Committee membership at 20. The Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:50am.

The Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee is to take place at the conclusion of lunch at our May CLE, consistent with our usual practice.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place at the Broadmoor Golf Club at 10:30 am on June 20, 2017.