

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

May 18, 2021

This meeting was our fifteenth consecutive meeting conducted entirely through Zoom, again due to the coronavirus crisis. The following Executive Committee members were present at this meeting: Chair Eleanor Doermann, Treasurer Ron Thompson, Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Joe Gordon, Morrie Shore, and Carole Grayson. Not able to be present were Steve DeForest, Secretary Al Armstrong, Scott Osborne, Brian Comstock, Jim Riehl, and BOG Liaison Tom McBride.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Eleanor welcomed the attendees.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al's Minutes of our April 20 meeting were approved by Motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ron had no substantive update to the last report available, which was for the month of March. That report reflects that the section picked up 9 new members, for new income of \$225 (our only income for March). Our only expense was the WSBA membership fee of \$18.75 per member. Total membership is now more than what we budgeted for; our mini-CLEs seem to be working to increase our membership. The March report doesn't take into account income received from our latest mini-CLE, which is expected in our next report. Ron's treasurer's report was approved by Motion.

Ron also noted that it is almost time for submission of section budgets. Therefore, he will have a budget ready for discussion by the next meeting. As usual, he will prepare two or three alternative budgets for the Committee's consideration.

BYLAWS RELATED TO VOTING STATUS OF CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Brian, Eleanor and Carole met with Julianne Unite and Kevin Plachy at WSBA to discuss solutions to the recently discovered problem of inactive WSBA members not being permitted to apply online for Executive Committee positions. Julianne and Kevin acknowledge that the problem is not just with the Senior Lawyer Section bylaws, but with the WSBA bylaws. And there is agreement that given the unique nature of our section, those bylaws should change to permit non-active members to be in leadership. Such a change is a matter for the Board of Governors, so we have also involved BOG liaison Tom McBride in the conversation, and he is in agreement. Kevin and Julianne are working on revising the WSBA bylaws to reflect the proposed exception. This change would expressly include inactive, honorary (50-year), pro bono (formerly emeritus pro bono) and judicial bar members as eligible for executive committee leadership. Tom McBride has noted the need to

clarify/reiterate that everyone must meet age or years of practice, which our bylaws already include as a requirement. From discussions with Julianne and Kevin and BOG liaison McBride, Carole believes the section is being supported in its goal to ensure participation by our non-active members.

Eleanor noted that we will need our revisions ready for the July BOG meeting, and therefore, we will need to approve them at next month's meeting. (Carole will check with Kevin and Julianne about when exactly they need our proposed revisions.) Carole has already done considerable work on this, and the main task will be aligning our revisions with the proposed WSBA revisions. As Eleanor pointed out, these changes will not change the way we do business as a committee (which has always been by consensus)—but it will remove future doubts about status and eligibility, and possibly raise our section's profile in a positive way.

OTHER SECTION ELECTION MATTERS

Jeanine reported that on May 17, she submitted the WSBA form listing the section's proposed slate of candidates, including all current members who wish to return, plus our new applicant, Tom Sprinkle. The form did not distinguish between active and inactive members; there was simply a field to fill in the names of proposed candidates. Jeanine will follow up with Carolyn McGregor at WSBA to acknowledge that the SLS slate includes some inactive members, an issue currently being addressed by both the section and the WSBA, and to ascertain that the section's slate may go forward as proposed at this time.

ANNUAL CLE

Carole confirmed that we do have the May13 date for our 2022 annual CLE at the Marriott. Carole recommends working to find speakers 8-10 months or even a year before the event; she hopes to find out if speakers from our previously cancelled annual event who haven't appeared at a mini-CLE yet are available for next year's event. Committee members were encouraged to consider other possible speakers.

MINI-CLEs

Carole and Eleanor asked EC members for ideas for future speakers for mini-CLEs. Jeanine will follow up with attorneys at her new firm about possibly presenting on issues they face in their municipal law practice, which could be timely and of interest to a broad audience. There was agreement that September would be a good month for our next mini-CLE.

NEWSLETTER

Eleanor raised the possible article topic of Zoom trials, and Jeanine noted that Mark Scheer and one of his partners had presented a CLE on their experience with at least one all-remote trial. Coreen Wilson is another attorney who has tried at least one case via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on June 15, 2021 at 10:30 am.