

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

August 21, 2024

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. The following Executive Committee members and WSBA personnel were present at this meeting: Interim Chair Carole Grayson, Jim Riehl, Steve DeForest, Al Armstrong, Joe Gordon, Brian Comstock, BOG Liaison Jordan Couch, Jenny Rydberg, Noah Baetge, WSBA Sections Program Coordinator, Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Bill Cameron and soon-to-be Young Lawyer Liaison Ruth Apahidean. Not able to be present were David Sprinkle and WSBA Sections Program Specialist Carolyn MacGregor.

CHAIR’S WELCOME

Carole stated that Carolyn is on vacation, and that although our October 4 CLE is on our Agenda, Rachel may not need to join us this morning.

Carole indicated that Ruth Apahidean has been officially designated as our Young Lawyer Liaison. Her term begins on October 1. Ruth introduced herself to the group.

BOG LIAISON REPORT

Jordan told the Committee that the Member Status Work Group’s recommendations will be considered at an upcoming BOG meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for September 6-7 in Grand Mound, Washington, at the Great Wolf Lodge. Other matters up for discussion by the BOG will include what has been termed “entity regulation,” that is, what role the Bar can play in overseeing the various quasi-practitioners of law in our state, such as Legal Zoom and other alternative legal services. Some of these businesses are now operating in our state pursuant to a consent decree facilitated by the Washington State Attorney General’s Office.

MEMBER STATUS REPORT

Stephen Crossland, our former Executive Committee mate, talked about the recommendations he and his fellow Member Status Workgroup members will present to the BOG. Both the current membership category status quo and the possible changes were set forth on a grid presented by Noah Baetge, WSBA Sections Program Coordinator. The information contained therein had been circulated previously. Stephen said he is anxious for these changes to take effect as his son and daughter-in-law have allowed their respective WSBA memberships to lapse and they may need guidance on how to rejoin, should they wish to.

Stephen said he would, as a Workgroup member, stress to the BOG the following issues:

1. An adjustment of WSBA license fees in certain situations.
2. An outline of legal activities that would be permitted to those bearing an “honorary” classification, expanding the list of permitted legal endeavors, if possible.
3. An expansion of Bar activities that “honorary” members would be permitted to perform.

Further, it was mentioned that the minimum years-in-practice requirement for the “Honorary” membership category, now at 50, will be reduced to 40 years, should the Workgroup’s findings be implemented. The discussion turned to whether or not we should keep the category’s title “honorary;” several Committee members voiced support for changing the category name to “emeritus.” Several Committee members felt that the term “emeritus” implies that that title was earned over a long period of time, whereas “honorary” seems to connote a gift of some kind. It was acknowledged that Steve did not favor this change, but a Motion was proposed to support the term “emeritus.” The Motion passed. Other recommendations of the Work Group were also endorsed via this Motion. Stephen said he would convey these sentiments to the BOG meeting attendees.

There was some talk of trying to obtain, for the Senior Lawyers, a seat on the BOG. (Carole had mentioned that she had talked to an out-of-state attorney who wished to have a similar senior-lawyer seat on his own BOG equivalent.) The general consensus was that it would not be a good idea to have special-interest seats on the BOG; that that practice would result in too many disparate voices and may result in a type of institutional paralysis.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Al’s draft of the Minutes of our July 17, 2024 were approved by Motion.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Joe reported that at the end of June our fund balance stood at \$12,903.17.

SECTION ELECTIONS

Jeanine announced that the results of the recent section elections have been posted by the WSBA; all those standing for election were successful. There are currently two open positions for Executive Committee membership.

NEWSLETTER

Jim reported that our fall newsletter copy has been forward to Britt*, who in turn has forwarded it to the Bar for “review of content.” He said this issue will be filled with good graphics and pictures.

Jim cautioned that Anne Seidel has submitted another ethics column for our coming issue, but that she needs ethics questions submitted to her for later issues.

Jim said the fall edition of *Life Begins* should be out by the first week of September. Jim asked if the newsletter will be sent to all those WSBA members who are eligible to join our Section. Jordan said this was done with one issue last winter but, since there are about 11,000 WSBA members who would be eligible to join Senior Lawyers, the Bar could not do this with each issue. (There are only about 9,000 Washington attorneys who are involved in section membership as a whole, it was pointed out.) The WSBA will let us know whether the mass emailing will take place with the winter edition of *Life Begins*.

SECTION ELECTIONS

Jeanine announced that “you are all winners!” All who ran were victorious. It was mentioned that Senior Lawyers had the second highest rate of voter response of all sections, with 28% of Section voters returning their ballots.

OUR OCTOBER 4, 2024 CLE

Carole said we have our speakers committed and ready to go for October 4. Approximately 7 presenters will be speaking, including our own David. The Washington State Attorney General’s Office, the Federal Trade Commission and the King County Prosecutor’s Office will be represented on the faculty. Jenny will act as moderator.

Registration for this CLE is now open. Tuition will be \$159 for non-section members, \$137 for current non-section members who also wish to join Senior Lawyers, and \$112 for members of our Section.

TASK FORCE ON INCREASING MEMBERSHIP

This topic was tabled pending the adoption of the Membership Status Workgroup.

ADJOURNMENT

Carole adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on September 18, 2024 at 10:30 am.