

Member Status Workgroup – Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2024, 4:00PM– 5:00PM

Members Present

- Kari Petrasek, Chair
- Francis Adewale, WSBA Treasurer
- Steve Crossland, Active Member from the Senior Lawyers Section
- Kathleen Pierce (inactive), Inactive/Judicial or Honorary Member
- Althea Paulson, Pro Bono Member
- P.J. Grabicki, At-Large Member

WSBA Liaisons and Staff Present

- Renata de Carvalho Garcia, RSD Director
- Bobby Henry, RSD Associate Director
- Anne Trent, RSD Paralegal

Call to Order

Kari called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

Approve April 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The April 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes were approved. Francis abstained due to his absence.

Review and discuss the different license status scenarios

Bobby went over potential changes to license based on the feedback received from members and the workgroup.

Resigned/Retired Label Change:

The workgroup discussed each option and were supportive of giving members the option to choose “voluntarily resigned” or “retired” as their status. Since this would not involve creating a new status or granting privileges to existing status, it could potentially be accomplished through a simple “label” change.

Discounted License Fee:

The workgroup also discussed a status option that would allow members who retired from the practice of law but want to a member of the bar and be able to volunteer with the bar to qualify for a discounted license fee. Another option is the creation of an “active senior” or “emeritus” status where members of a certain age and with a certain number of years of experience would automatically have their license fee reduced. Members of the workgroup raised questions about fairness of this approach especially considering members of any age might be experiencing a financial hardship and would benefit from such a discount/waiver. In addition, active license fees would likely need to be raised to cover the loss in revenue. Ultimately, the workgroup decided to further explore the option of giving members the ability to seek a license fee waiver or discount rather than provide one automatically.

Judicial Service:

The workgroup considered expanding the eligibility of judicial status to allow part-time judicial officers to qualify.

Hardship Waiver:

The workgroup also discussed expanding the hardship requirements so that members can obtain a waiver more than twice or raising the poverty level eligibility from 200% to something like 300-400%.

Next Steps

- Staff will revise the potential status options with these considerations in mind.
- Steve will seek feedback from the Senior Lawyers Section.
- The workgroup will discuss the feedback and revised proposals and potentially take action at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.