

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 17, 2020

Taking precautions regarding the Corona virus pandemic, our March meeting was conducted entirely by telephone. The following Executive Committee members “attended” this meeting: Chair Brian Comstock, Al Armstrong, Steve DeForest, Eleanor Doermann, Joe Gordon, Jim Riehl, Dudley Panchot, Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Morrie Shore, Carole Grayson and Eleen Tran of the WSBA. Not able to be present were BOG Liaison Tom McBride, Devorah Signer-Hill of the WSBA, Scott Osborne and Ron Thompson.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Brian convened our meeting. He announced that Eleanor has agreed to assume the mantel of Chair of our Executive Committee. Subsequently, two Motions were put before the Committee: a Motion to formally designate Eleanor as Chair (subject to, of course, the WSBA’s later election process) and a Motion to thank Brian for his selfless work during the last several years as Chair, especially in light of Brian’s stated intention, at the beginning of his first term, to serve for one year only. Both Motions passed unanimously.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

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

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ron continues to deal with health issues and so could not attend the meeting. However, it was agreed that not much has changed with respect to our financial status, so up-to-date financial figures were assumed not to be critical at this time. We did have the WSBA’s Quarterly Report figures for the first quarter of our fiscal year. It was agreed that no Motion to Approve the Treasurer’s Report need be entertained this time.

We again wish Ron the very best and look forward to his speedy return to our meetings.

NOMINATING SUBCOMMITTEE

As required by our Article X, section 10.2 of our Bylaws, our nominating subcommittee was re-activated in anticipation of the upcoming Section elections. Jeanine and Brian agreed to act as our Section’s “in-house” subcommittee members, and discussions were had as to who would act as the third (non-executive Committee member). Carole suggested attorney Shoreline attorney Michael Frost.

SENIOR LAWYER SECTION MISSION TASK FORCE

Carole and Eleanor are co-chairing this subcommittee. The co-chairs agreed that they have had a fruitful meeting regarding our mission. Carole noted that she has materials from the “senior lawyer” equivalent of other bar associations, but, as an outsider, she could not get specifics in addition to the publically available information. She said she will ask the WSBA for additional links to these “senior lawyer” sections.

OUR CLE WILL BE POSTPONED DUE TO THE ON-GOING CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

With our annual CLE just six weeks away, and as the Committee had no way of knowing when the ban on gatherings would be lifted, the Committee postponed the event. Steve wanted to make sure that our speakers were notified, and was told that they have received notice of the postponement. Jim moved that we proceed to do whatever planning we can do given that the new date is uncertain. He indicated that we should try to make the new date a Friday, our traditional day of the week for our CLEs, and that we preferred October 30. This plan was adopted by Motion.

MINI CLE

Eleanor said she was concerned that an in-person mini-CLE wouldn’t provide for the requisite “social distance” required in the pandemic times. Eleen thought that we can defer decisions about our mini-CLE for a couple of months; Brian thought that we might be able to make some preliminary decisions even if the date of the event remains uncertain. Brian said that he would talk with Carole and Eleanor about this. Carole suggested that we may wish to sponsor a mini-CLE on May 1 (the original date for our main CLE), which could address some aspect of legal issues raised by the pandemic. Jeanine agreed and said she thought we might feature someone from the public health field.

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Brian said he had received an article from Phil DeTurk that we might use in whatever publication we decide to publish. It was mentioned that due to the current situation, there is no need to act immediately, but we should ask Scott to call a telephonic meeting of the Communications Subcommittee. Eleanor said we should send some sort of communication to our general section members “so that they know we are here.”

YOUNG LAWYER LIAISON

Jeanine indicated that, as she has “aged out” of continuing eligibility for membership in the Young Lawyers’ Section of the WSBA, as her term as Young Lawyer Liaison has ended, she has been trying to find a replacement to act in that capacity. The WSBA has received no application for that position, and Jeanine indicated that she would talk to Eleanor about the situation.

ADJOURNMENT

Carole's Motion to Adjourn was adopted and the meeting was duly concluded by Brian.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place telephonically on April 21. The exact time of this conference call will be announced as the date approaches. At present, Your Secretary believes the starting time will be the same as our standard schedule, 10:30 am., however the specific time doesn't appear to be official yet. Stay tuned.