

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

**October 19, 2022**

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. The following Executive Committee members were present at this meeting: Interim Chair Carole Grayson, Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Al Armstrong, Eleanor Doermann, Joe Gordon, David Sprinkle, Jim Riehl, Steve DeForest, William Cameron, Jenny Ryberg, Brian Comstock, Young Lawyer Liaison Sabiha Ahmad, and Carolyn MacGregor, WSBA Sections Program Specialist. Not able to be present were Morrie Shore and BOG Liaison Jordan Couch.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Carole welcomed the Committee attendees and noted that this is our first meeting of our 2023 fiscal year.

Carole also informed us that our new WSBA President, Dan Clark, has decreed that each WSBA section will henceforth be assigned two BOG Liaisons, not just one as in the past. Our new BOG Liaison, Kevin Fay from District 9, has therefore joined Jordan Crouch in Mr. Crouch's current liaison role.

Newcomers Jenny Rydberg and William Cameron attended their first E.C. meeting as official Committee members. Jenny started her practice in 1979 in Kent, and is proud to recall that she was the first woman in that city to do so. She developed a wide-ranging practice, and now enjoys the travelling and opportunity for community service that retirement affords. William (Bill) Cameron, retired from the Lee Smart firm and the world of corporate law and now enjoys life at his Lummi Island home. Bill currently serves as the City Attorney for the town of Rainier.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Al's Minutes from our September meetings were approved by Motion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Joe reported our fund balance as of the end of July was \$16,336.52. At the end of August, our fund totaled \$15,581.52, lower than July because of our newsletter expenses. (The WSBA is late getting September's figures to Joe/Eleanor.) Joe's Treasurer's Report was approved by Motion.

Joe and Carole informed us that the BOG has approved our proposed budget for the coming fiscal year.

### **BOG LIAISON REPORT**

Our Interim Chair Carole has added two new features to our Agenda: a BOG Liaison Report and a Young Lawyer Liaison Report (see below).

Our hitherto lone BOG Liaison, Jordan Crouch, could not be present for the meeting. New BOG Co-Liaison, Kevin Fay, attended his first meeting today.

### **YOUNG LAWYER LIAISON REPORT**

Sabiha reported that she had recently attended a Young Lawyer Liaison orientation via Zoom. Carolyn spoke at this function.

### **WSBA ENTITY ANNUAL REPORT**

Eleanor indicated that she had duly completed and filed our Annual Section Report. This had been distributed to the Committee members prior to our meeting. She explained the form and its contents to the attendees. The report addressed such matters as diversity of membership and proudly highlighted our action that made it possible for sections, ours included, to make it possible for inactive section members to be full voting members of their respective sections and executive committees.

### **WEBCASTS, MINI AND IN-PERSON CLEs, AND OUR GENERAL MEETING**

Relative to in-person CLEs and our general meeting, Brian voiced concern about what he perceived as a lack of connection and fellowship between our general section members that we enjoyed in pre-pandemic days. “Our in-person CLEs were the life of our Section...we need resuscitation\*!” It was deemed important by the Committee to discern the feeling of the general Section membership: Jim opined that we “need to get feedback from our members about whether or not to have an in-person general meeting.” Steve suggested that we contact our general membership via using our recently-filed Annual Report (which would be included in the email or eblast) as a starting point for discussion. We could set a date in the near future for a meeting that would include our general membership as well as the Committee. Steve acknowledged that we probably wouldn’t get a huge response from the general Section membership but “that is a gesture we should make.” It was mentioned that we might use Survey Monkey to find out how the members feel. Jenny said that we could use a “simplified” Survey Monkey for this, at no cost. Carolyn said that other sections do undertake surveys of their respective memberships. Sabiha volunteered to look into what other sections are doing. An Ad Hoc subcommittee was formed, consisting of David, Jeanine, Sabiha and Brian to make a recommendation to the Committee; this matter will be included in next month’s Agenda.

Relative to our future mini-CLEs, it was suggested that Committee members come up with some recommended topics. Carole thought that Jeanine's current and former practice may lend itself to informative studies of such matters as immigration law, and how to deal effectively with legal problems of the poor and homeless. Carole thought that Jeanine's recent remote trial may be an interesting subject. Jeanine mentioned that her current employer makes it a priority to answer and return phone calls, which affords the firm opportunities to act as a referral service as well as a provider of legal services\* to financially hard-pressed families and individuals. "It's hard to get someone to listen to you if you're poor."

Carole thought that perhaps her experience teaching a solo and small practice course at the U.W. may provide a basis for a mini-CLE.

Carole suggested a new subcommittee to explore mini-CLE topics. The Committee agreed and appointed Carole, Sabiha and Jeanine as subcommittee members. Carole asked Committee members to email her with any ideas we may have.

### **NEED A VOLUNTEER TO ACT AS INTERIM CHAIR FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL, MAY AND JUNE**

Carole indicated that we still need a Committee members to act as Interim Chair for the third quarter of our fiscal year. "I am confident that we will fill this vacancy."

### **NEWSLETTER**

Jim announced that our latest issue of *Life Begins* is now on-line. "Carolyn and Britt made it happen." He gratefully acknowledged the benefit of Eleanor's column and those of Justice Madsen and Dr. Erickson as well as other contributors. Jim put out the call to Executive Committee members to each submit an article, one per year, which addresses some aspect of law or law-related issue, for *Life Begins*. "This is my challenge to you all!" Also book suggestions for our readership would be appreciated, which would include short summation of the contents. Sabiha recommended that, if possible, the suggested books would be by local writers, local attorneys, or have a Northwest theme. Sabiha said she really enjoyed our newsletter "and I have seen others." Jenny said she thinks the travelogues (a` la Steve) and the book suggestions would be a great idea. Jim said our publication should be relevant, informative and entertaining. Carole cried "hey, that should be our tag-line!" She suggested that we display this line prominently in the newsletter. Carole also said that, as Interim Chair, she would submit a column during her time in that office.

Jim wondered if our publication can be sent out via Listserv.

As for a submission deadline for our next Life Begins, Jim said please get articles to him by December 1.

### **ETHOS STATUS**

Eleanor said that there are no indications that the status quo relative to our integrated Bar will change, “so there is nothing to report.”

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Carole adjourned the meeting.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on November 9, 2022 at 10:30 am.