SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 16, 2021

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

CHAIR’S REPORT

Eleanor welcomed the attendees. Steve announced that he has assumed Honorary status with the WSBA.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Al’s Minutes of our February 16 meeting, as amended, were approved by Motion.

Al, who was tasked with finding out the Executive Committee’s duties relative to record-keeping, circulated a reply from the WSBA Section Liaison Julianne Unite’s response; basically, Ms. Unite indicated that the relevant meeting notices, bylaws, annual budgets, and annual reports are posted on our Section’s WSBA website. All other items, she continued, such as newsletters, may be posted “at the discretion of the Section.”

Brian wanted to know if the schedules for our past annual CLE were of record at the WSBA. It was mentioned that Carole has kept schedules of these meetings in good order. It was also mentioned that the WSBA CLE department also keeps these records. Steve also reminded us that the Annual Meeting and CLE speaker schedule would have been set forth in our past Life Begins issues.

Ron stated that past Executive Committee member Phil DeTurk, in his process of decluttering, has sent records that he has to Eleanor.

The Secretary’s Report was approved by Motion.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ron reported that our present financial situation is “as good as I’ve ever seen.” As of January 1, 2021, our fund balance was $11,543.09; as of January 31, due to our successful mini-CLE, our balance totaled $12,895.77. This represents an increase of $1,352.68. Ron stated that our January
mini-CLE netted our Section $700. We have netted approximately $3,000 from both of our mini-CLEs.

Further, our membership is now at 221, actually one member over the figure estimated in our current budget. “Things are looking up all over,” said Ron. Someone wondered how many of those joining this year are newcomers.

Ron’s Treasurer’s Report was approved by Motion.

UPCOMING ELECTION TO THE SENIOR LAWYERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

It was mentioned that Mike Frost is indeed going to fill “non-member” seat on our Nomination Sub-Committee. Jeanine said that the Subcommittee met the previous night. Jeanine reminded us that each current member of the Executive Committee will need to submit an application for continued membership. She said there is an on-line mechanism that handles these applications. The time for submitting these applications began the previous day and lasts for one month. Steve asked whether the new applicants can be asked to tell us something about themselves. To attract new applicants, Carole suggested an eblast to the Section membership, urging any applicant to “shape your future today.” Steve mentioned that our bylaws limit the total Committee membership to thirteen seats. WSBA sources tell us that there will be six open seats on our Committee, in light of our limitation to thirteen members, it was unclear where the WSBA felt that we had room for six more. Brian suggested previously that we might want to expand the membership on our Committee to fifteen, but after learning of the thirteen seat limit by our bylaws, he opined that perhaps thirteen is sufficient.

There was some mention of utilizing listserv to alert our Section membership of the opportunity to apply for a Committee membership position.

Someone wondered whether Scott Osborne still wishes to serve on the Committee. Steve brought a Motion that Al should contact Scott and find out. The Motion passed. Al said he would contact Scott.

OUR MINI-CLE SITUATION

Our up-coming mini-CLE on April 9 was discussed.

Brian suggested that we consider presenting CLEs longer than mini-CLEs, as other organizations and churches do. Eleanor thought we would be better served by presenting successive Mini-CLEs, and Steve agreed. Eleanor thought we are doing ok with our string of mini-CLEs. Jim said long CLEs presented remotely, featuring two or three speakers, would present challenges that we may not need.

Morrie suggested a mini-CLE about Doctors Without Borders.
NEWSLETTER

It was mentioned that our Communications Subcommittee will be meeting on March 31. Jim, Morrie and Eleanor asked for suggestions as to content of our next newsletter, our spring addition.

OTHER MATTERS

It was mentioned that a retired attorney has contacted one of our Committee members asking how he may go about instituting a reduced tuition structure for those attorneys who are no longer practicing, but who would appreciate updates on a given area of law for the purpose of advising others. Steve said we should put her in touch with the WSBA treasurer.

Carole remarked that our CLE tuition structure is a good bargain as it is. Our prices are grandfathered in, thus our tuition for a full-length CLE is about $198, which includes lunch and parking. The standard rate for a full-length CLE is $275, not including parking and lunch.

ADJOURNMENT

Eleanor adjourned the meeting.

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on April 20, 2021 at 10:30 am.