SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 19, 2021

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. The following Executive Committee members were present at this meeting: Chair Eleanor Doermann, David Sprinkle, Ron Thompson, Jim Riehl, Al Armstrong, Joe Gordon, Carole Grayson, Steve DeForest, Brian Comstock and Morrie Shore. Not able to be present were Jeanine Lutzenhiser and BOG Liaison Tom McBride.

CHAIR’S REPORT

Eleanor welcomed the attendees.

It was noted that our new Executive Committee member David Sprinkle was joining us at this meeting. David officially become a Committee member on October 1, the first day of our 2022 fiscal year.

Eleanor indicated that a new BOG Liaison, Jordan Lee Couch of University Place WA, may be coming on board.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Al’s Minutes of our September 23 meeting were approved by Motion, with an alteration noting that our soon-to-be Section member David was present at our last meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Ron reported that we still have $13,911.11 in our account, there having been no income or expenditures since the last report, and indeed no activity at all since June 30. Our membership remains at 258. Both our fund balance and our membership total are ahead of our projection in last years’ budget. Ron again noted that the reason that we are doing as well as we are is our sponsorship of two mini-CLEs during the course of the last fiscal year. Ron’s report was approved by Motion.

Ron also stated that we have received our budget for fiscal year 2022 from the WSBA. This budget includes our plans to hold two mini-CLEs and forecasts a membership of 250, less than we already have.

UPDATE ON THE BYLAWS REVISIONS PROCESS

Kevin and the WSBA General Counsel have been collaborating with us on our WSBA bylaws project. They came up with two minor tweaks to the language of our proposal, including
specifying which membership classes would be eligible to assume full section committee membership as per any section’s bylaws amendment: Inactive, Disability and Honorary. Our proposal with be presented to the BOG at its next meeting on November 4. Brian, Carole and Eleanor will attend this meeting via Zoom. Brian thought our proposal will be accepted. “It appears to be a routine matter.” Ron wanted to know if an inactive member would be eligible to be officers. The consensus of the meeting attendees was that they would be eligible. Carole added that each section could deal with this question should they undertake to amend their respective section bylaws. Jim wondered if the section amendment in this regard would be effective immediately upon the insertion of the amendments. Eleanor opined that this would depend of the provision of each section’s bylaws. Our Section’s official vote on this matter would of course be limited to members of the Executive Committee (as opposed to the general Section membership). As for the required notice of this vote, Steve noted, reading from our Section bylaws, that a 7-day notice would be required.

WEBCAST IDEAS

Eleanor asked whether the contemplated change in webcast technology has been placed in service yet—whether the speaker can now be seen by the webcast attendees in real time. Carole said she will email Carolyn MacGregor about this.

It was suggested that we form a webcast subcommittee to come up with mini-CLE topics. It was decided that Morrie, Jim and Eleanor would constitute this subcommittee. The subcommittee members indicated that they would set a date for a Zoom-meet.

There were some suggestions for mini-CLE subjects offered: Steve suggested a topic dealing with the remaining questions concerning our integrated Bar in light of recent court decisions. Another topic he mentioned would deal with perceived WSBA staff conflicts. Eleanor mentioned the area of retirement transitions, and Ron thought succession planning tips to protect clients’ interests in the event of the retirement or death of a practitioner. David mentioned issues relating to the sale of a practice. The topic of practice management was also proposed, David also said he could present on the subject of underwriting, but allowed as to how the attendees might find this area somewhat dull. Morrie mentioned corporate fiduciary obligations to shareholders. Landlord/tenant matters were also suggested, as well as issues regarding physical infrastructure of such things as highways and bridges.

OUR MAY 2022 MAIN CLE

Eleanor said we are still scheduled at the Marriott for May, 2022. Will we be able to stage it in-person? Jim noted that the Bar will have to decide that. Brian said he wished we could just get back to the old ways. Jim said we should find out from our members how they would feel about in-person attendance. Eleanor said we should find out how to stage a “hybrid” CLE, but others disagreed with that idea.
A “WELLNESS CHALLENGE” FROM MIKE FROST

Attorney Mike Frost has mentioned the idea of a “Wellness Challenge” between, say, younger lawyers vs senior lawyers. Carole suggested a point system for certain physical exercises. Further, Hawaii’s Zoom Yoga was mentioned as a model for physical fitness. Carole will find out more about this and let us know by email.

ADJOURNMENT

Eleanor adjourned the meeting at 11:39 am.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on November 16, 2021 at 10:30 am.