

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

September 20, 2023

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

CHAIR’S WELCOME

Brian welcomed the attendees.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Al’s June Meeting Minutes were approved by Motion.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Joe reported that our fund balance at the end of July stood at \$14,325.14.

CLE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Carole thanked Al for his summation of our July 14 CLE.

SECTION WEBPAGE UPDATE AND IMPROVEMENTS

Noah Baetge, WSBA’s Sections Program Coordinator, recently informed our Section that the Bar has undertaken to update and to improve section webpages. The Bar also instituted a survey of the WSBA’s section members to discern what the membership would want in the way of web-site improvements; the answers were due on September 25. This survey calls for each section to designate a contact person who would serve as the section spokesperson to interact with the Bar re proposed alterations/addition to a section’s webpage. Noah joined us for this meeting.

Regarding our Section’s website, Noah outlined some suggestions: adding an “elections” subpage; adding anchor links that will direct users to specific headings on the main webpage and improving the organization of information. Noah commented that we already have a fairly comprehensive website.

Noah requested us to choose a representative. He indicated that the time commitment wouldn't be great. In the event of no volunteers, Noah said he would try to keep track of developments for our Committee. Jeanine said that if anyone has any suggestions, please "shoot me an email."

ANNUAL REPORT

Jeanine asked if anyone had access to Annual Reports we have submitted in the past. The deadline for this year's report is October 13. Carole agreed that having the template is enormously helpful.

YOUNG LAWYER LIAISON REPLACEMENT

Carolyn mentioned that we still do not have any applicants for our Young Lawyers Liaison slot. She mentioned that we could recruit a candidate separately from the Bar process. David suggested that we just wait for next year's cycle to fill the position.

THE 2023 WSBA LISTENING TOUR

Al and Carole attended the September 13 WSBA "Listening Tour" held at the WSBA's downtown office.

Al reported that the hosts, Executive Director Terra Nevitt and new BOG present Hunter Abell informed the attendees that the Bar plans to retain the current annual dues through the year 2025. They also said that the WSBA's office lease will be extended; that the Bar offices would not be moved to another location. Further, changes are contemplated for the bar exam, styled the "Next Generation Bar Exam." This regimen* will, according to the Bar, place greater emphasis problem-solving skills and less testing demanding rote memorization.

Al indicated that Carole and fellow attendee Bob Wayne joined him in asking that the Bar find another term for no-longer-practicing attorneys; the current term, "voluntarily resigned," carries with it an implied meaning that the former practitioner had been somehow gently forced off the stage. Mr. Wayne also questioned whether it was really necessary for an inactive practitioner to take a full three-year's worth of CLEs to resume active practice, as well as facing a "character and fitness" review.

Carole also told our Listening Tour hosts of our desire to expand our Senior Lawyers Section membership. Both Carole and Al emphasized Brian's steadfast emphasis on gaining greater membership from among some 13,000 eligible WSBA members. Carole mentioned that Bob Wayne had suggested that older lawyers meet informally with others in their age-group.

Carole also related some key remarks by some other attendees. Attorney Kelby Fletcher questioned why interest groups within the Bar are allowed to give still-serving members of the judiciary awards. APEX award winner Michael Goldenkranz (Pro Bono and Public service Award) spoke about how the public should be made aware, through posters and brochures, of how attorneys serve the public interest. Attorney John Hogland had a similar suggestion. We heard from an attorney who organizes moot court competitions for high-schoolers; he advocated awarding CLE credits to those who coach these students. Attorney Lucinda Dunlap who had been practicing Social Security disability law wanted the WSBA to consider some type of sliding scale Bar dues scheme for those with public entitlement practices. BOG member Brent Williams advocated raising the Bar dues every year.

OBTAINING THE WSBA'S HELP IN EXPANDING OUR SECTION MEMBERSHIP

Discussion turned to steps our Section could take to get the Bar to consider automatic membership in our Section for all eligible WSBA members. Brian mentioned that there are six bar associations ,across the country that have some kind of bar-wide automatic membership in their respective senior lawyer sections, as does the ABA. Steve suggested a joint task force be instituted.

The Bar-wide Young Lawyer Committee has been mentioned as a sort of template for the possible expansion of our Section. Carolyn said that the former Young Lawyer Division was divided into "Districts." Further, we might wish to draw our WSBA Liaisons Kevin and Jordan in to support our cause. Carolyn cautioned that an expanded Senior Lawyers Section could result in our losing some of our prerogatives that we have now.

Carole and Jenny said they would help in our Section-expansion endeavor. She didn't think a formal motion would be necessary to begin these efforts. Steve suggested that we may wish to approach our WSBA Treasurer to see if a "no dues" expanded Senior Lawyers Section is a "non-starter." Jenny said she would be willing to part of this. Jenny said she would like to attract more members with more to offer than merely an annual CLE. Brian agreed that "we do not offer much."

A subcommittee consisting of Al, Jenny, Carole and Brian was appointed to pursue this matter with the WSBA. A Zoom meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, September 27 at 5:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on October 18, 2023 at 10:30 am.

