

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

**November 15, 2023**

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. The following Executive Committee members and WSBA personnel were present at this meeting: Interim Chair Carole Grayson, Brian Comstock, Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Al Armstrong, Jenny Rydberg, David Sprinkle, Steve DeForest, Joe Gordon, WSBA Sections Program Specialist Carolyn MacGregor, Bill Cameron, Jim Riehl, WSBA Education Programs Lead Rachel Matz, and WSBA Volunteer Engagement Advisor Paris Erickson. Not able to be present was BOG Liaison Jordan Couch.

**CHAIR’S WELCOME**

Carole indicated that WSBA Volunteer Engagement Advisor Paris Erickson would be joining us later in the meeting to discuss the Bar’s WSBA Community experiment. Carole thanked Jenny, who filed an application with the Bar for our Section to be included in this pilot program. Jenny’s application was granted, Carole said, and added that there had some competition for the slot and we were fortunate to be included.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Jenny’s October 18 Meeting Minutes (taken in Al’s absence) were approved by Motion. Al thanked Jenny for a job well done.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

As the WSBA has been somewhat behind in getting Joe the latest records, we do not yet have the Statement of Activities through October; the latest we have reflects our financial state as of the end of September, the end of our fiscal year. Our fund balance as of September 30 stood at \$12,678.58. The Statement of Activities reflects that we spent more on our publication than we had budgeted for, however it was noted that we have been given some discretion in this regard.

Joe noted that this latest Statement of Activities is just a draft, not the official Statement. As such, and because of the fact that it was published by the Bar itself, a Motion to Approve was not necessary.

**NEWSLETTER**

Jim observed that our increased publication expenses may reflect the increased number of pages as *Life Begins* expands its coverage. Jim posed the question to the Committee: “Do

we slim *Life Begins* down to save on publication costs?” Steve said no we shouldn’t, and Jim agreed, as did the Committee as a whole. Steve indicated that the extra cost was money well spent.

Jim noted that in the latest edition (fall 2023) he had the words “Relevant, Informative and Entertaining” placed in the masthead. He gave credit to Carole for this turn of phrase. Carole protested that she wasn’t the one who thought of it, but the honor rested with her anyway.

The Committee voiced high approval of our latest publication effort. The Committee also agreed that Britt Sutherland did a “wonderful job.”

Jim indicated that he has reached out to the Superior Court Judges’ Association in an effort to secure a periodic update about developments in that arena. This would complement the updates that Justice Madsen currently writes regarding the goings-on at the Supreme Court level. Jim also said that he has spoken with retired Supreme Court Justice Gerry Alexander, who has volunteered to submit an article.

Jim called for more topic and book suggestions, as well as attributable articles published elsewhere. Attorney Anne Seidel plans to write an ethics column, “Ask Anne.” Ms. Seidel has asked that ethics questions be submitted to her in advance, to which she would write responses. Carole thought that we should start stockpiling questions for her. Jenny asked if we need a travelogue article; Jim said not right away, but we should build a stockpile of these also.

Jim wondered if we should try publishing *Life Begins* four times a year, twelve pages per issue, instead of three issues annually with 16 pages each.

Relative to our winter 2024 edition, Jim is aiming for a publication date in January. He added that the submission deadline was December 15, “but that is a soft deadline.”

## **WSBACOMMUNITY**

The WSBA’s Volunteer Engagement Advisor, Paris Erickson, joined our meeting to familiarize the Committee with the Bar’s pilot program, to be called the *WSBACommunity*. The aim is to create online communities each consisting of a board, committee, section executive committees or other group engaged in Bar-related endeavors.

The plan involves instituting a central repository of communications and resources for given Bar-related groups, allowing group members one-stop instant access to their respective group’s discussions, events and research. This being a pilot project, this endeavor won’t take place on the Bar’s website. There will be 12 groups participating in this project. The overall timeline for this undertaking is from June 15, 2023 to June 15,

2024. Paris said that the project is close to complete integration with the WSBA's database. If the pilot is successful, all WSBA sections could be henceforth included within this project's purview.

Those with questions can contact Paris at [parise@wsba.org](mailto:parise@wsba.org).

## **DISCUSSION WITH JOEL GILMAN**

WSBA member Joel Gilman joined us, at Carole's invitation, to share his proposal to institute informal gatherings of seasoned attorneys to discuss matters of interest to the legal community. Joel had shared some of his ideas along this line with those who attended, along with Joel, the Listening Tour held at the Bar's downtown office in July. Joel stated that, after practicing law in Australia for 20 years, he returned to the Seattle area just in time for the COVID shutdown in early 2020. Accordingly, he has felt somewhat disconnected from the local legal scene, and saw unofficial coffee gatherings as a means for he and others to share knowledge and ideas.

Joel suggested possibly compiling a list of those interested in attending some of these discussions. It was proposed that Joel should compose a short article for our next *Life Begins* issue, and perhaps may want to direct attention to the article on a Listserv posting. Jim said he already does meeting periodically with older attorneys in the Kitsap area. Jenny said that years ago, she would participate in discussion group in south King County, but the idea sort of died out, as the mostly younger attorneys became pressed for time, being busy with new careers and family. It was suggested that an older crowd of lawyers, with kids grown and many in retirement, may have more time for these meetings.

Joel said he would put together an article outlining his suggestion and will run it by Jim and Carole.

Jim noted that Joel's article could mesh well with a piece that Steve is writing for the winter 2024 *Life Begins*, on concept of "connection."

## **CLE PLANNING FOR 2024---VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

It was decided to offer a 2 ½ hour webinar on May 1, 2024, featuring perhaps three speakers. Jenny suggested our CLE theme might be "Protecting Democracy." Carole suggested that we keep the CLE non-partisan.

A possible 4 ½ hour CLE was suggested for summer 2024.

Carole asked that anyone wishing to serve on her CLE subcommittee to contact her. She indicated she would appreciate "a couple of volunteers."

### **TASK FORCE ON INCREASING MEMBERSHIP**

Carole asked that Al and Brian report to the Committee, at our next meeting, what they have found out relative to other Bar Associations around the country are doing to increase their respective senior lawyer sections' membership.

### **THERE WILL BE AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING IN DECEMBER**

It was decided to hold an Executive Committee meeting in December.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Carole adjourned the meeting.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on December 20, 2023 at 10:30 am.