

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

January 17, 2024

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

CHAIR'S WELCOME

Jeanine welcomed the attendees, favoring us with pictures of her adorable grandchildren. She indicated that our Carole is in AWOL status in beautiful Punta Perula, Mexico.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al's December 20 meeting minutes were approved by Motion.

JEANINE ENCOURAGES US TO LEARN THE *WSBACOMMUNITY* SYSTEM.

As an exercise in accessing our new *WSBACommunity* website, Jeanine placed three tongue-in-cheek "edits" of Al's minutes, and posted these minutes in our *WSBACommunity* website. She promised a reward to all who saw them. Al said he saw all three of Jeanine's "edits," but could only recall Taylor Swift's apparent appearance at our last meeting; he couldn't recall the other two edits. As promised by Jeanine, he was awarded a cup of coffee for his efforts.

Carolyn answered several questions posed by the Committee members about interacting with this website. She encouraged us to update our personal profiles. David, Jim and Jenny indicated that they had indeed updated their respective profiles; Jeanine said they would also receive cups of coffee also.

Carolyn stated that the "drop-in" sessions offered earlier for *WSBACommunity* novices was not well-attended; she agreed that perhaps most potential users of this website were so unfamiliar with the process that they didn't really know enough to ask meaningful questions. Carolyn said the best way to learn was just to jump in and learn from experience. Carolyn also addressed uploading documents on the site; Al had asked for advice about posting approved meeting Minutes. Al also had a question regarding locating the "library."

As a learning experience, she suggested just posting a perfunctory writing at the appropriate space on the website; she can erase them at a later time. She used screen share to illustrate how to access “threads.”

Carolyn thanked Jeanine and Carole for taking an active role in prompting our Committee members to learn to navigate and use the new website. She opined that perhaps our Section is the most engaged in this learning process of all the sections involved. She wondered if perhaps there could be some kind of site-navigation skill contest between all the sections taking part in the *WSBA* Community pilot project.

Jeanine said that utilizing this site will be very useful for planning our CLEs.

It was mentioned that through determined repetition, we can learn to use this website, “just like dog training!” Jim requested that this reference to dog training be placed in the Minutes.

Carolyn encouraged all who continue to have questions contact her or Paris.

CLE PLANNING FOR 2024

“We are off to a great start,” said Jeanine. For our May affair, Carole has lined up Liz Frost to speak about elections and election issues, and Jim’s friend Dr. Charles Ericksen (who writes for our newsletter) will address rule of law initiatives around the world. This CLE is slated to offer 2.5-3.0 credits. Jeanine said she has a call in to a U.W. professor about presenting for this CLE, but has not heard back.

As for our CLE planned for later, perhaps offering 4.0-4.5 credits, we haven’t firmed up many plans as yet. Lunch is contemplated at this CLE.

NEWSLETTER

Jim said that our winter edition is out, and currently “in [publication] queue.”

Jim recalled our past discussions about getting this newsletter out to all prospective member-eligible Bar members, in addition to all current Senior Lawyers Section members. Jim set forth the pros and cons of a more widespread distribution. Pros: additional cost would not be a factor and Section would become more visible on the *WSBA* landscape. Cons: we could no longer promise prospective enlistees access to *Life Begins* if they know they will receive it anyway. Several suggestions were offered: Bill thought we should send the newsletter to all eligible recipients, around the time of year when *WSBA* members renew their respective section memberships, and give them an opportunity to “re-up,” signing on as dues-paying members. Jim thought we should consider distributing our newsletter through the “*Take Note*” communication feature of the *WSBA*, which is distributed to all *WSBA* members, via email, on an every-other-week

basis. Doing it this way, allowing recipients to choose to read the transmission, would prevent those who didn't wish to receive the newsletter from having to request that it not be sent. Jeanine agreed with Bill and said we should distribute our newsletter widely at section sign-up time.

Jeanine said that the general consensus of Committee members leaned toward a wider distribution of *Life Begins*, and it was decided to send our publication out to all those member-eligible individuals; the email would be accompanied by a letter from our Section urging the recipient to join Senior Lawyers. The method of distribution would be by e-blast and via the *Take Note* route. Jim and David liked this approach. Jim said he would compose the letter.

Al wanted to know if we could determine how many readers clicked on our e-blast. Carolyn said that our webmaster could provide the number of clicks to the link to the publication. Jenny said this information would be valuable feedback.

OUR SECTION'S CHANCE TO APPEAR IN THE BAR NEWS' "SECTION SPOTLIGHT "

Jeanine said that she and Carole were recently approached by Kirsten of the *Bar News*, who suggested that our Section may wish to appear in the Section Spotlight feature of the *Bar News*. Kirsten gave Jeanine and Carole a six-part questionnaire that we would need to complete and return to her before the end of January, in time to be printed in the February issue. She sought and obtained volunteers to address each of the questions. The questions assignments to answer were as follows: What value does membership in your section offer that isn't available elsewhere? David. What recent accomplishments has your section achieved? Carole and Joe. What opportunities does membership in your section offer for mentoring or being mentored? Jeanine. What guidance would your section offer for planning a successful retirement that involves an on-going interest in law? Jenny. Does your section publish a newsletter? Jim.

Jeanine asked that all the questions be answered by January 24 or 25. She opined that "if Jenny can get her answer in before she leaves for New Zealand (which she promised to do) each of you should be able to do so too." She asked that the responses be posted to the thread on our *WSBACommunity* website. Jeanine said she will gather the responses and forward them to Kirsten, in an effort to make it into the February issue of the *Bar News*.

UPCOMING SECTION ELECTIONS

Jeanine reminded us that the section elections are almost upon us. The Nominations Committee (Jeanine, Carole and Mike Frost) has completed the Election Set-up Form. The Application Portal opens up in March, in May the candidates must be selected, and the election itself occurs in June. Jeanine mentioned that there is room for perhaps two more members of our Executive Committee, and that we should be on the lookout for

interested candidates. As a side note, Carolyn stated that there would be a WSBA remote drop-in session at 12:00 noon tomorrow on the subject of recruitment to sections' executive committees.

TASK FORCE ON INCREASING MEMBERSHIP

Al said he hasn't talked to Brian since our last meeting, but that understands that his suggestion to propose a dues-free, automatic enrollment of all senior lawyers in our Section may not be practical or achievable.

REPORT FROM OUR BOG LIAISON

Jordan stated that the BOG had just published its Strategic Goals statement, and that he would post this document on our *WSBACommunity* platform. He indicated that the BOG had voted to support the Washington Bar Licensure Task Force proposal re widening the path to Bar membership and had notified the Washington State Supreme Court of its support.

He encouraged all who have any questions for the BOG to let him know.

OTHER MATTERS

Jeanine encouraged us to attend a January 26 CLE offered by the World Peace Through Law Section. The CLE is entitled "U.N. Declaration of Human Rights." This CLE was suggested by WSBA member Randall Winn. Jeanine said she would post this announcement on our *WSBAComunity* site.

ADJOURNMENT

Jeanine adjourned the meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on February 21, 2024 at 10:30 am.