

Washington State Bar Association
Solo & Small Practice Section Executive Committee



MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2016

Members Present: Greg McLawsen, Chair; Bruce Gardiner, Treasurer; Jennifer Willner, Secretary; Kari Petrasek, Mark Jordan; Shashi Vijay; Shana Pavithran

Liaisons Present: Kristina Larry, YLC Liaison

Advisors Present: Ann Guinn, John Redenbaugh

WSBA Staff: Julianne Unite

The Meeting was called to order at 12:05 a.m.

1. **Retreat Minutes**

The January 30, 2016 Reatreat Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

2. **Treasurer's Report**

Bruce believes we should have a 2 year reserve fund.
Our Annual CLE will likely not be in the black

3. **BOG Report** - Governor Kim Risenmay

7 public BOG meetings a year, one of which is Olympia
Judicial Recommendation Committee reported on candidates
Executive Committee (not open to public) concern: US Supreme Court opinion, had to do with Dentists. State agency effectively preventing non-dentists from providing dental services. Antitrust violation. Bar is in 3rd branch of government. State Supreme Court has plenary power to regulate. We've acted pretty autonomously in the past. WSBA must set up procedures for Court to actively review and approve.

Bylaws Workgroup: Supreme authorized WSBA governance review. WSBA sent governance report to Supreme Court which was approved. Bylaws Group formed to incorporate those changes and to make changes to Bylaws. Be on the lookout for Bylaws revisions! These are very important and affect all WSBA members. READ THEM!!

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ABA Resolution 105 approved by HOD: 10 recommendations. WSBA has urged Supreme Court to be one of the first states to adopt.

Supreme Court very concerned about access to justice, it's declining. Kim predicts LLLT program will expand. If WSBA is supervising both attorneys and non-attorney providers, what should be the membership status? Full or limited membership? What about leadership opportunities? Could a LLLT become WSBA President?

WSBA Legislative Committee and then there's the BOG Legislative Committee. Should they be merged? BOG Committee Chair recommended it be abolished

Kim is on the budget and audit committee. Kim believes WSBA has done a good job of paring the fat out of the budget. Credit card fee saved bar \$300,000. If we stayed at \$385 bar dues, WSBA will go insolvent in 3 years. WSBA staff is smaller now. Cost of labor increases 3%/year. WSBA fees will likely go to \$400/year.

38 are mandatory bars

Most of them (2/3) are unified bars, e.g. services to members

WSBA and Supreme Court are in agreement to maintain a unified bar

Everyone hopes Sections will increase membership and increase member benefits

30,000 in state WSBA members

11,000 belong to Sections

19,000 total Section members

BOG elections are underway

Open positions in 10th and 2nd

One At Large position on BOG

BOG District members elect the at-large

Sections Workgroup: BOG authorized this committee to re-do. 5 positions open for Section Leaders. Kim has not heard anything about using Section reserves for anything other than Section-related things.

4. **Reports from Subcommittee Breakout Sessions:**

A. Education Committee - Shashi:

Next webinar next week! Discussion on proceeding with April webinar. Let's move forward, it's primarily a member benefit. Likely be 4th Thursday in April. **Consensus:** continue free trials until WSBA implements it's webinar program or, until we decide otherwise

B. Electronic Communications Committee - John:

Added quite a lot of resources to members-only area. John putting out announcement via Listserve.

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C. Membership - Kristina:

Do a winery/brewery, none of them are open past 4 or 5pm
Westlund Distillery on 1st Avenue.
March 30th @ UW Solo & Small Practice

Kim has spoken to the WA Wine Institute every year (it's in Prosser!)

5. **Membership Directory** - Greg:

Any problem with Greg creating a private solo/small firm attorney directory to include service providers? John suggests running the idea by WSBA, if there is any problem we can tweak.

Opt-in membership and service directory. WSBA has said no, couldn't police whether members were "active" WSBA members. We can't do that as SSP.

6. **Sections Workgroup Update** - Greg

EC endorses Ruth and Paul for SWG

7. **2016 Conference Update** - John

8. **Ideas to Spend Money on Section Membership**

Jennifer briefly recapped her ideas to spend reserves monies on member benefits which were first brought up at the Retreat. Jennifer will circulate her member benefit ideas to the EC and they will be discussed at a future meeting.

9. **Subcommittee Collaboration:**

The Membership and Education Subcommittees will join forces to create a networking/educational event SOON!!!

Meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.