

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION  
SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION  
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

**March 19, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Comstock. Present were Executive Committee members Joe Gordon, Al Armstrong, Dudley Panchot, Pat Mead, Jeanine Lutzenhiser (by phone), Eleanor Doermann (by phone), Morrie Shore (by phone), and Kevin Plachy (by phone). Not able to be present were Carole Grayson, Ron Thompson, Steve DeForest, Scott Osborne and Jim Riehl.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Brian distributed the Agenda for today's meeting (and had emailed it to E.C. members prior to the meeting).

Our newest Executive Committee member, Tacoma attorney Joe Gordon, was introduced and welcomed to our group.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Al's Minutes from our February meeting were approved by Motion, as were Al's changes to the January Minutes clarifying matters pertaining to publication efforts.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

As Ron was ill, the Treasurer's Report was tabled until next month. We all wish Ron the best and look forward to seeing him at our April meeting if he is able.

**SECTION QUESTIONNAIRE**

Pat reported that Carole will compose a "preamble" to our questionnaire, after which the completed document would be forwarded to the WSBA, then sent to our Section membership and former members. Pat noted that the general subject of the questions will center on "what do they value about the Section and what would they like to see the Section do?"

**EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WSBA'S EMERITUS PROGRAM**

WSBA Public Service Specialist Page Hardy joined us via telephone to discuss new ideas and opportunities pertaining to the WSBA's Emeritus Program. The Emeritus program allows those attorneys who are no longer actively practicing law to render pro bono legal services under the auspices of a qualified legal services provider (QLSP). For Emeritus status, an attorney must have been actively practicing law for at least five of the previous ten years at the time of applying. Although the WSBA's

Moderate Means program is not currently considered a qualified legal services provider (as it is fee-generating) the Bar is exploring the possibility of having the Moderate Means program qualify as a QLSP. The Moderate Means program serves the legal needs of those within 200%-300% above the federal poverty line. There are no CLE requirements of those serving in the Emeritus program.

Brian opined that this Emeritus program is relevant to our own Committee's membership Task Force. Jeanine volunteered to find out what she can about this program.

### **PAT EXPLAINS THE RECENT WSBA DEVELOPMENTS**

Pat, our WSBA Liaison, outlined and clarified for us recent changes or occurrences that have concerned members of the WSBA in recent weeks, relative to possible changes in the Bar structure.

New WSBA Workgroup: The members of this workgroup have been chosen and are set to get to work. Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst will chair this group. They are scheduled to meet on March 28. They expect to have a report issued in June or July.

House Bill 1788: This proposed legislation was proposed by an attorney-member of the Washington State House of Representatives, in an effort to repeal parts of the State Bar Act. The solo-practitioner sponsor is dissatisfied with all the non-essential undertakings of the WSBA. The aim is to have our Supreme Court govern the Bar more directly, with perhaps just an office in Olympia. The bill has passed the House of Representatives and is now being considered by a Senate Committee. Pat noted that our present governor would probably veto the bill's passage. This matter is independent of the goals of the WSBA workgroup.

Brian asked Joe to keep in contact with Kevin and Pat in order to keep us abreast of the unfolding events with regard to these WSBA issues.

### **NEW WSBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

There was some discussion of the termination of Paula Littlewood, the WSBA's current Executive Director. It is the BOG who hires the Executive Director. The BOG apparently voted to fire her during a January executive session, thus the specifics of the termination are not clear. The BOG only indicated that they wished to move in the "different direction." The termination is to take effect April 1. Ms. Littlewood's supporters on the State Supreme Court wrote to the BOG, but apparently to no avail. A new Executive Director has not as yet been named.

## **CLE NEWS**

Kevin reported that our entire CLE faculty is now confirmed. CLE e-blasts will go out to the Section membership, and will also include registration forms. Two e-blasts will be sent, one four weeks before the event and one a week prior.

Kevin also said that we will have our CLE lunch in the atrium as in the past.

## **MINI-CLE**

Eleanor said she has in mind some topics that could be addressed by our contemplated mini-CLE. The challenge now is finding speakers. She will be working with Kevin on this. An ethics CLE was also suggested.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR**

Pat indicated that Brian has worked with Paris Erickson on this. Needed are two current Executive Committee members and one Section member that is not a member of the Executive Committee. Pat as well as Brian volunteered to fill the two E.C. nominating committee positions. The balloting will be in May.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Brian adjourned the meeting.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place at the Broadmoor Golf Club at 10:30 am on April 16, 2019.