

SENIOR LAWYERS SECTION
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 18, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Comstock. Present were Executive Committee members Al Armstrong, Steve DeForest, Eleanor Doermann, Joe Gordon, Jim Riehl, Dudley Panchot and Carole Grayson. Attending by phone were Jeanine Lutzenhiser and Morrie Shore. Not Able to be present were BOG Liaison Tom McBride, Devorah Signer-Hill of the WSBA, Pat Mead of the WSBA, Scott Osborne, and Ron Thompson.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Brian convened our meeting. Addressing our goal of restarting our own Section publication, Brian showed the attendees the Jan./Feb. issue of Experience, the publication of the ABA's senior lawyers' section. This magazine had been brought to the meeting by Jim, active in that ABA section also.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Al's minutes of our January 21 meeting were approved by Motion.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ron could not attend the meeting due to health issues, but Brian attached a WSBA-generated two-page document: the first page was the December, 2019 Statement of Activities and page two being a "Trial Balance" setting forth our Section's specific expenditures and receipts, also for December, 2019. Our fund balance as of December 31 was \$8,198.17.

We again wish Ron a speedy recovery.

TASK FORCE RE: OUR ON-GOING MISSION

Brian indicated that our Mission Task Force conducted a fruitful telephonic meeting two weeks ago. He appreciated Eleanor and Carole acting as co-chairs of this subcommittee. He indicated that he had information about several senior lawyer-equivalent sections of other bar associations. Eleanor cautioned that we should not let the difficulties we face stall our efforts at defining our mission. Brian said that he looks forward to working toward expanding our Section's presence.

CLE NEWS

Carole continues to have good news about our upcoming CLE: she said that all our presenters have now confirmed their appearance at our May 1 function. Eleanor said that Kim Prochnau would not be available to speak, but attorney Caroline Davis, a former private practitioner, has confirmed her availability as a speaker. Ms. Davis was formerly was involved in the CASA

program and has served on numerous non-profit boards and currently operates a family law mediation service.

Jim, a scheduled speaker at our function, mentioned that the WSBA had contacted him about the specifics of his presentation and that the WSBA will be or already have contacted the other presenters also. This is apparently customary for all WSBA-sponsored CLEs. The deadline for these conferences was to be Friday, February 14, but our Committee does not have to do anything in this regard, as the WSBA works with the speakers directly, not through our Committee. The tentative titles of most of the various presentations were set forth in the Minutes of January 21.

Jeanine indicated that she thought that Ms. Davis may want to talk about her move from her previous practice to conducting mediation; this may be of interest to many of our members, who may be considering transitioning from private practice to mediation. Brian noted that many of our speakers are themselves going through some manner of transition.

Carole said that our CLE will qualify for seven CLE credits. Eight speakers will be speaking. Jim wanted to know if the Bar will distribute any brochure regarding our function, and was told that the WSBA does do that. Brian remains concerned that our CLE attendance is dwindling, and that we must “begin reaching out now.” It was decided to take up the discussion about CLE publicity efforts at our next meeting. Jim observed that there are quite a few judges that are in the process of retiring, and that perhaps we could make an effort to reach out to them as potential CLE attendees.

An overall theme was suggested by Steve: “Filling the Gaps.” Steve’s idea was adopted by Motion. Steve has provided themes for several of our past CLE programs.

SENIOR LAWYER QUESTIONNAIRE

It was decided to defer discussion of our Senior Lawyer Questionnaire until our June meeting—after our CLE.

MINI-CLE

Eleanor said she is open to suggestions for the topic of another mini-CLE, to be held most likely in September. She solicit other possible topics through our Section’s List-serv also. Brian suggested we should consider presenting a mini-CLE on an annual basis, or possibly quarterly.

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Jim suggested that we should consider, as a start, posting our Agenda and our Minutes on our List-serv. Al thought that was a good idea, a way to break what he termed our “writers’ block” on this issue. Steve and Eleanor agreed.

Morrie proposed that we post pro and con position-papers on various topics of the day. Dudley and Al liked this idea.

Morrie was added to the Communications Subcommittee and volunteered to organize the next telephone conference. Steve suggested that members of this Subcommittee each take a turn at setting up succeeding telephone confabs.

YOUNG LAWYER LIAISON

Eleanor indicated that as she can no longer be considered a “young lawyer” as per the applicable rules, the WSBA is encouraging others to apply for this position.

ADJOURNMENT

Brian adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon.

The next Executive Committee meeting will take place at 10:30 a.m. on March 17 at the Broadmoor Golf Club.