

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

**January 19, 2021**

This meeting was our eleventh consecutive meeting conducted entirely by phone, again due to the coronavirus crisis. As in the last few meetings, we met through Zoom. The following Executive Committee members were present at this meeting: Chair Eleanor Doermann, Ron Thompsen, Jim Riehl, Brian Comstock, Steve DeForest, Al Armstrong, Joe Gordon, Morrie Shore, Carole Grayson and Eleen Trang of the WSBA. Not able to be present were Scott Osborne, Jeanine Lutzenhiser and BOG Liaison Tom McBride.

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Eleanor welcomed the attendees. She noted that 37 people have signed up for our January 22 mini-CLE.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

Al's Minutes of our December 15 meeting were approved by Motion.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Ron reported that, financially, we are doing pretty well. At fiscal year's end (September 30, 2020), our fund balance stood at \$9,195.05. Our fund balance at the end of fiscal year 2019 was \$8,348.04; our net fund increase was therefore \$847.01. Ron noted that, for the current fiscal year, we had budgeted for an income of only \$81.25. This makes us \$765.76 ahead of budget. Ron noted that our fund's healthy status was, in part, due to our Section's not having to provide for the costs of printing and mailing our former newsletter.

Ron again noted our gradually declining Section membership. Our budget assumed a membership of 260, yet as of September 30 our membership was only 226. At the end of fiscal year 2014, our membership stood at 329.

Ron's Treasurer's Report for September was approved by Motion.

Ron also presented his October Treasurer's Report, reflecting our financial status at the end of the first month of the current fiscal year. This reflected the resounding success of our most recent mini-CLE, which netted our Section \$2,198. This brought our fund balance to \$11,495.35 as of October 31; as we had only budgeted for an income of \$200.40 for the entire year, we now stand at \$2,099.90 ahead of budget, and this with only 8.33% of the fiscal year completed. Ron noted the typos on the two Treasurers' Reports that gave the ending dates of both Reports as May 31, 2020, orally altering those two dates to September 30, 2020 and October 31, 2020, respectively.

Ron's Treasurer's Report for October was approved by Motion.

## **OUR STILL-SCHEDULED MAY CLE: TO BE OR NOT TO BE?**

Shanthi Raghu, WSBA Interim Education Programs Manager, joined us as we discussed how we were going to proceed with our main CLE. The issue, of course, was how we were going to deal with the current pandemic as it relates to our planned May 2021 affair. Ms. Raghu said that the WSBA is not anticipating, nor preparing for, any in-person CLE's as things now stand. "Plan for a virtual event," said Ms. Raghu.

Carole noted that none of us now expect to present an in-person CLE. Ms. Raghu said that we are still in contract with the Marriott; she will contact the Marriott and work with Kevin to deal with this matter.

The discussion then turned to what sort of virtual CLE we should sponsor. Jim opined that two or three hours of remote viewing would be about the limit for most attendees. Ron said we would be better off presenting a series of mini-CLEs. Eleanor noted that the speaker isn't seen by the audience during our mini-CLEs and that would be a problem for a CLE that is longer than the one-and one-half hour affairs we are currently sponsoring. Brian stated that he knows that churches and clubs are currently handling presentations involving a hundred or so participants, with the speakers and attendees all on view, and that this procedure is not expensive. Ms. Raghu indicated that mini-CLE as the term is understood by the WSBA only allows for audio and power point. However, she continued, a half or full day CLE would be able to show the speakers on camera. These longer affairs involve more expense (but still cheaper than in-person CLEs), and the tuition would be higher than the \$35 maximum for mini-CLEs. However, there would be more costs recovered due to the WSBA policy of offering these productions for sale (on tape) on an "on demand" basis for a period of three years after production.

It was mentioned that the Solo and Small Practice Section has sponsored a virtual CLE, under pandemic conditions, featuring a reception following on Zoom. Brian suggested that, with respect to our May CLE that we just present it on a remote-viewing basis, with a price break for our Section members. Carole wondered whether anyone would really want to sit in front of a computer from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Brian then said maybe we could just present our virtual CLE in parts. "Other organizations do this, why can't we?" Carole asked about break-out rooms, and Ms. Raghu indicated that the WSBA hasn't yet done break-out rooms.

Carole observed that she wouldn't, as an attendee, want to sit for more than two speakers. Perhaps, she said, we can just do our CLE in parts, make it a series of mini-CLEs. Jim added that we shouldn't put on an entire day of virtual CLEs.

Several Committee members continued to voice support for sponsoring a series of remote-attended mini-CLEs in place of our planned May event. Eleanor observed that we still need to decide whether to present Mini-CLEs, or more elaborate CLEs with the presenter seen by the attendees. Ron made a Motion that we seek a continuance, passed the currently scheduled date, with our contract with the Marriott. The Motion passed. Eleanor inquired as to what speakers we should present first. Carole suggested attorney Marion Korngold, as she is in the process of changing careers and thus may not be available at the time different that the date to which she has already

committed . Other names from our May program were suggested, such as Dan Satterberg and Scott Osborne. As for time constraints, Eleanor indicated that we would have to give the WSBA six to eight weeks lead time for a given program. Brian made a Motion that we adopt Carole's idea; that we present a program featuring Marion Korngold in April. Ms. Raghu said April 9 is available. The Motion passed. Carole said she would contact Ms. Korngold.

### **LIFE BEGINS NEWSLETTER**

It was announced that our latest newsletter will be placed on our website soon and announced with an e-blast. Brian congratulated Eleanor, Morrie and Jim for another superb effort. Brian wished that the newsletter could go out to all 14,000 or so WSBA members of a certain age, but Eleanor said we currently do not have the capability to do this.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Eleanor adjourned the meeting.

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on February 16, 2021 at 10:30 am.