

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

October 20, 2020

This meeting was our eighth 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 Thompson, Brian Comstock, Steve DeForest, Jeanine Lutzenhiser, Al Armstrong, Joe Gordon, BOG Liaison Tom McBride, Morrie Shore, Carole Grayson and. Not able to be present were Scott Osborne, Jim Riehl, and Eleen Trang of the WSBA.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Eleanor welcomed the attendees.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ron described our financial situation as of August 31; as of this date our fund balance was \$9,392.46. We had one new Section member, for which we netted \$6.25.

We are almost \$1,000 ahead of our proposed budget for this fiscal year, primarily because, as Ron has stated in the past, we have not, as yet, incurred any publication costs. He cautioned that our current membership falls 34 individuals short; our current membership stands at 226, while our budget presumed a total membership of 260.

Eleanor mentioned that we will soon receive an invoice for our first electronic newsletter.

Morrie reminded the Committee that Eleanor had paid for our Zoom account from her own funds, and that she should be compensated for this. The Committee agreed and Eleanor said she would look into how this could be done.

The Treasurer's Report was approved by Motion.

WE MEET BOG LIAISON TOM MCBRIDE

Tom McBride, our BOG Liaison, introduced himself and gave us a brief summary of his background. An Olympia attorney, Tom currently serves on the BOG for District 10. He was the Executive Director of the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys for 25 years and also served as legal counsel for the Washington State Senate. His background includes (pre-law-

school) employment as a CPA, as well as service as a King County Deputy Prosecutor. Tom also acts as Legislative Liaison with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In light of the BOG meeting later in the day, Carole asked Tom if he could help spread the word about our upcoming mini-CLE on October 30. Tom said he would do this. In response to a question from Brian, Tom said that there is a link for remote attendance at the BOG meeting, and that he would forward the link to Eleanor.

Tom indicated that there may be a slight dues reduction in store for WSBA members.

MAIN CLE—MAY 14, 2021

Carole said that she feels that our previously-chosen speakers will still be available on May 14, 2021, our rescheduled CLE date. Devorah Signer Hill has sent out formal notices to our speakers setting forth the new date.

Ron cautioned that we should get started as soon as possible searching for sponsors for our CLE. He indicated that he would follow up on this with the WSBA.

MINI CLE—October 30, 2020

Eleanor said that, as of Friday, we have 86 people signed up. She said an e-blast CLE notice was sent to upwards of 6000 Bar members. Devorah is working on widening the publicity to an even greater portion of the Bar membership. Ways to register include going to the CLE Store on the Bar's website, or visiting the Senior Lawyers Section at that website. It was mentioned that Solo and Small Practice Section member Marc Stern has encouraged attendance at our mini-CLE by posting information about our mini-CLE on the Solo and Small Practice Section website. Mr. Stern is a member of our Section also.

Carole voiced concern about some attorneys not receiving the mini-CLE publicity e-blast, as some E.C. members have noted.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY MINI-CLE?

Carole suggested that we consider presenting another mini-CLE in January or February. She indicated that Yakima attorney Sarah Wixson has sent her and Morrie a presentation outline. Eleanor said that if we are going to do this, we should start soon, as the Bar needs approximately six weeks notice relative to the presentation of a webinar. Steve suggested that we aim for a January presentation. It was decided to try for two Friday dates in January, either the 15th or the 22nd.

NEWSLETTER

It was decided that it wouldn't be a good idea to have everyone on our Executive Committee also on our "editorial board" ("too many hands in the soup," Steve said.) Eleanor suggested that the Committee members can discuss or suggest some topics, and the Publications Subcommittee can take it from there.

Brian said we have access to all of our old print newsletters and we should just do what we did in the past, albeit electronically now. Brian stressed that we need to get our newsletter to as wide an audience as possible. Brian added that there are approximately 14,000 or so WSBA members who are potential Senior Lawyers Section members at whom we need to be focusing our appeal.

Morrie pressed for inclusion, in our newsletter, of all our book suggestions submitted earlier and also said that we should solicit book suggestions from others, even those not Senior Lawyer Section members. Steve, and later Carole, suggested we include just a few book selections in each newsletter issue.

It was also mentioned that the ABA's equivalent "Senior Lawyers Section" may have some articles that we could use, but Eleanor said that although we have a link to that site, one has to be a member of a given section to get at the articles themselves.

Discussion was had concerning the frequency of our publication. Eleanor indicated that it takes about a month for a given article, once written, to come to publication, due to WSBA requirements. She suggested a quarterly publication. Steve agreed, and said we can decide on a different schedule in the future if we wish. Brian observed that we are hampered and limited by the Bar's publication protocol, and urged us to look at a different publication arrangement. Jeanine suggested that we could stay with the quarterly publication through the Bar, and, in order to further advertise our mini-CLEs, that individual members of our Committee could, on an informal basis, could contact other Section members through the Listserv, as Carole and Eleanor have done.

Other suggested topics for our publication:

Carole recalled that in 2011, the WSBA had conducted a survey of its members, and found that, within 5 years, a substantial portion of the then-practicing older attorneys would be retiring or substantially curtailing their practices. She advocates following up on this study.

Also suggested was an article outlining changes in I.R.A. law.

Eleanor mentioned that a new Senior Lawyer Section member has a unique practice: she travels around the county in her R.V. and practices law, remotely, during her journeys. Perhaps, said Eleanor, she could write about her experiences in our publication.

"DIPLOMA PRIVILEGE" CONSIDERED

Tom mentioned a possible development with respect to our state's bar exam. There has been concern in some quarters about low pass rates for bar examinees. It has been mentioned that the grades given to our law schools' students are not commensurate with the bar failure rate. Apparently the deans of all three of Washington's law schools favor eliminating the bar exam for their respective graduates. Tom indicated that it is not known at this time whether the problem is with the legal curricula or the bar exam itself.

ADJOURNMENT

Eleanor adjourned the meeting.

Our next meeting will take place on a remote-attendance basis on November 17, 2020 at 10:30 am.