



MEETING MINUTES of the ANNUAL RETREAT
January 30, 2016

Members Present: Greg McLawsen, Chair; Nancy Pacharzina, Chair-elect; Bruce Gardiner, Treasurer; Jennifer Willner, Secretary; Angel Base, Liz Bottman, Susan Fuller, Kari Petrasek, Mark Jordan; Shashi Vijay; Shana Pavithran; Karin Quirk

Liaisons Present: Gil Price, ALA Liaison, Kristina Larry, YLC Liaison

Advisors Present: Ann Guinn, John Redenbaugh, Pete Roberts

The Annual Retreat Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. **December 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes:** The December 2015 Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.
2. **Theme of the Retreat:** The Future of WSBA Sections

Greg: We've been one of the leaders in the opposition to the Sections' Workgroup's Proposals.

3. **The Future of our Section:**

History of the Sections Workgroup is recapped

Major proposals: (1) changing to a one-size fits all Charter system (2) pooling Section funds (3) Section leadership term limits; structured officers

EC discussion

Workgroup has identified problems, which were never quantified by the BOG

Importance of maintaining non-attorney membership on EC

Greg recaps his conversation with Anthony Gipe

Sections don't recognize that they are a financial drain on the Bar

28 ways of doing things - staff say this is an administrative nightmare

Bruce and Jennifer summarize the 1-19-2016 Sections Workgroup meeting

Bruce recaps history of per-member fee - "should be" covering the cost of our Section

Valid goals of Workgroup: fiscal responsibility, efficiencies in administration, what can we agree on? Start with that

4. General Discussion on Response(s) to Workgroup Proposals:

Proposal: Pooled Section reserves

Bruce: we need correct and accurate financial accounting

It looks like per-member charges are covering overhead, help us understand

Nancy: We need an ad-hoc Section Workgroup

Karin: What are staff doing to support Sections, can we decide what we need?

Collective agreement: Because we don't really know what the problem is, it's difficult to come up with alternative proposals.

Nancy: suggest there be a template for Section Bylaws; subject to unique needs, e.g. Criminal Law need for representation of both defense and prosecution

Bruce: A uniform elections template; uniform fiscal year; bar licensing & section dues the same all increase efficiencies. We can agree with these Workgroup suggestions.

The Elephant in the Room: WSBA management is responsible for the "fiscal cliff", not the Sections. The Referendum was 4 years ago. Why has spending continued???

Sections are not independent entities. WSBA validly wants Sections to follow WSBA directives

Sections don't get financial credit for subsequent CLE sales - this doesn't change Section administration shortfalls

Formal GR4 request? We can piggyback on other Sections who are more knowledgeable
Suggestions on how to address fiscal cliff

Letter to Section Chairs - we'll cooperate, support, add our name to their requests for information

Consensus: Ad Hoc Committee to craft letter which reflects those proposals SSP Section does not object to: Nancy, Shashi, Mark, Bruce - ad hoc committee crafting non-objection letter to be ready by February 4 meeting, feedback from EC accepted through February 5

Proposal on Uniform Leadership: Sections must be able to have their own leadership

Referendum: waiting for BOG action (if any)

5. Treasurer's Report

Motion made by Bruce: Contribute \$4,000 to the 2016 Conference, in lieu of amount not taken for 2015 Conference, with hopes that WSBA will earmark for national speaker plus additional reimbursements for faculty. **The Motion passes unanimously.**

6. **Webinar Update**

Shashi - ideas for webinars, ambitious agenda

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

- A. Education Committee - put a webinar on each month; change format of Annual CLE; put it workshop oriented, breakout sessions

Big member benefit ideas: purchase webinar platform; CLE materials or forms on a SSP USB drive

- B. Electronic Communications Committee - focus on visibility of ECC; new web resources; entire coursebook sets of materials from Oregon State Bar; additional chapters from WSBA; checking resources for accuracy

Big member benefit ideas: hiring young lawyer member to write content; create blog content; improve website or create our own website

- C. Membership - how to make listserve better; five events in different locations; craft brew and winery events; sponsorships? New swags, screen cleaners

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

A. **Motion made by Shashi to** purchase one year license to AnyMeeting web conference/webinar platform. **Motion passes unanimously.**

B. **Motion made by Jennifer:** Provide 5 scholarships to Section members to attend 2016 Conference (tuition only). Much discussion; proposed amendment to 2 scholarships fails. **Motion carries by majority vote.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.