



WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Taxation Section

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 19, 2020

Telephonic Meeting due to Coronavirus Stay-at-Home Orders

Persons in Attendance by Telephone:

George Munro – President
Claire Taylor -- Secretary
Kristi Richards
Darek Jarski
Bob Mahan
Rich Johnson -- Interim Treasurer
Brett Durbin
Jason Harn
Jill Fairchild
Alison Warden
William Richard
Dana Roman
Dan Jensen
Eleen Trang
Aaron Johnson

-
- 8:00 a.m. The meeting was called to order.
 - A motion to approve the prior meeting minutes was made and passed.

Treasurer's Report (Rich Johnson) & 2021 Budget

- We have not done anything, so nothing to report
- We need to do the 2021 budget
 - George: CLE Revenue Sharing stood out in budgeting documents; if we do big CLEs, they're very expensive; we don't know what we can do, so inclined to keep budget the same
 - Rich: without knowing how the next year will look, seems like we should keep the budget the same
 - Alison: on CLE issue, we should probably keep it the same, we're still trying to do CLEs and will probably try to help subsidize
 - Council voted to keep the budget the same for 2021 as it was for 2020
 - Rich will work on the new budget with Sam (new treasurer)

Individual Committee Reports

Estate & Gift Tax (Mary Louden)

- no report (not on call)



WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Taxation Section

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 19, 2020

Telephonic Meeting due to Coronavirus Stay-at-Home Orders

- Mary is rotating off, we have two new chairs (Cat Connell at K&L and Reed Jones at Northern Trust), so we are voting to include these two as interim chairs for remainder of fiscal year until elections go in effect, motion made and approved

International Tax (Nick Uren)

- no report (not on call)
- Nick is rotating off, we have new co-chairs, Tuan Ngo (DLA) and Al Mullins (ENY), so we are voting to include these two as interim chairs for remainder of fiscal year until elections go in effect, motion made and approved

Transactional Tax (Dana Romans)

- no report

IRS Liaison (William Richard & Jennifer Gellner)

- They met with new liaison, Tyler Jones, by phone to bring him up to speed
- Motion to approve Tyler in interim capacity, as Jennifer will be rotating to the pro bono position, motion approved

DOR Liaison (Dan Jensen)

- DOR Offices still closed to the public, including for in-person hearings with tps and their reps, no word on when they'll open for that
- He and Aaron met and they're discussing a joint DOR/SALT meeting this fall, make it free

Communications & Website (Sam Barnes)

- no report (not on call)

Legislative (Brett Durbin)

- Sales Tax on Professional Services Legislation
- WSCPA has been working through Tax Structure work group; Aaron will cover this

Young Lawyers (Megan Lowe)

- No report (not on call)

Outreach/Scholarship (Jill Fairchild)

- What to do about the scholarship given no annual meeting, will be difficult to get funds
- Should we still give it (people certainly need it)



WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Taxation Section

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 19, 2020

Telephonic Meeting due to Coronavirus Stay-at-Home Orders

- We've often contributed in the past (last year was about \$2,800 and 2018 was about \$4,600), so it wouldn't be that different, notwithstanding the fact that law firms won't get listed at annual luncheon
- Jill can email the deans of the schools to circulate so someone will have access to the funds for the fall

Pro Bono Committee (Kristi Richards)

- Letter to Chief Judge looks good, Kristi now has a final form of the letters and they're ready to go, no other updates

State & Local Tax (SALT) (Aaron Johnson)

- Excited to be on Committee
- Plans to continue building relationship with private practitioners and DOR, he and Dan are going to work on joint DOR/SALT meeting for fall and want to continue it going forward
- Alison: incorporate one of these into the CLE series she and Jason are working on
- Legislative: much discussion on changing classification on professional services, and adding on sales tax, no bill yet, but there's a lot of action being taken on it, would probably require a special session but they may put it in a special session
- Brett has reached out to the legislative advocate
- Aaron: he'd like to be sure we have DOR policy people connections
- Still discussions regarding whether to close the DOR Seattle offices--survey showed people would be done a disservice if there was no Seattle office; committee was overwhelmingly concerned about moving the office outside of the downtown core
- letter from Tax Section re: not closing Seattle office would be good, Aaron will draft, Bob will review, George can sign
- Rich talked to WSBA President who's working on the professional services sales tax/B&O raise issue, and he expects to hear from us on this

CLE (Alison Warden & Jason Harn)

- They've met re: planning
- New plan is to go for mini-CLEs, 3-4, about 1-1.5 hours each, Alison connected with mini-CLE person, but we're limited to one per month
- if we get a speaker for a luncheon, can incorporate into mini-CLE
- Jason: looking to incorporate actions of the section as well to keep people in the loop

Discussion



WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

Taxation Section

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – June 19, 2020

Telephonic Meeting due to Coronavirus Stay-at-Home Orders

- 2020–2021 Elections Underway
 - Brett will be the new President
 - Kristi Richards will be new Treasurer
 - Sam Barnes will be new Secretary
 - Jennifer Gellner moving to pro bono
 - Rich Johnson taking over communications
 - Jason Harn will be co-CLE with Alison

- Covid-19 Business and Tax Assistance Project
 - No updates

- Eleen:
 - BOG meeting happening on 26th and 27th, remotely
 - Zoom calls re: budgeting process if interested

Meeting Adjourned at 9:09 AM