

**MINUTES OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**OF:**

**DECEMBER 10, 2010**

**As Amended on January 14, 2011**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Matthew M. Fisher called the final 2010 meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) to order at 12:10 p.m. at the Oregon State Bar offices in Tigard, Oregon.

Present in person were: Matthew Fisher (Chair), Dale Johnson (Secretary), and Members-at-Large Kate Donnelly, Keith Semple, Rob Guarrasi, Ron Bohy, Norm Cole, and Dennis VavRosky.

Present by telephone were: Matt Roy (Past-Chair), and Members-at-Large Jacqueline Jacobson, and Jim Edmunson.

Absent were: Chuck Mundorff (Chair-Elect), Julie Masters (Treasurer), and Members-at-Large Jennifer Roumell, Steve Schoenfeld, Nick Sencer, and Adam Stamper.

**II. MINUTES**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of November 5, 2010. The motion passed.

**III. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Fisher reported. Matt Shields (OSB Public Affairs/Legislation (503) 431-6358) contacted Fisher and advised him that the Legislative session will begin in January 2011.

Chair Fisher was happy to report that the Going Forward Committee has started to gain some traction this year. With regard to the Salishan Committee, Fisher commended the committee for its aggressive approach toward using alternative materials (CDs, Flash Drives) that will decrease costs.

Fisher announced that he filed the Section's Annual Report to OSB on time.

Fisher announced that the next Salishan Conference and Annual Meeting will take place on May 13 and 14, 2011.

Fisher praised Bench/Bar chair Donnelly and her committee for a successful luncheon and CLE. Some EC members commented that having the Bench/Bar Forum in early November was much better than having it later in the month.

#### **IV. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Masters was absent, but Fisher reported. The 2011 Section budget was submitted to OSB. The \$250 (each) donations to Campaign for Equal Justice and OLIO were completed out of the 2010 budget.

Expenses for the Bench / Bar Forum were \$7,630.55. Treasurer Masters predicted that the end of the year ledger would not show a net loss for 2010.

#### **V. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **A. Salishan**

Member Jacobson reported. The committee met during the first week of December and was scheduled to meet again in January, 2011. Sally Anne Curey will chair the committee in 2011, but it probably will be her last year at the helm. Salishan committee member Linda Conratt is considering the chairmanship for 2012.

##### **B. Communications**

No report.

##### **C. Daughtry Award of Merit**

Matt Roy reported. Matt Fisher will take over primary responsibility for the committee as liaison to EC. The committee will be Fisher, Roy and Holly Somers. Johnson will ask Masters to remind the section membership of the nomination deadline (2-11-11) and Fisher will provide Mundorff with the nomination and selection process criteria.

#### **D. Bench / Bar Forum**

Donnelly reported. The committee received a lot of good feedback. The only concerns involved the sound system or the hand held microphone. There were some suggestions that the EC should consider another Salem location. The total expenses paid to Willamette Valley Vineyards was \$5,966.87. Fisher asked the committee to look into the possibility of a change in location, when it meets in early 2011.

The CLE was approved for three ethics credits.

Donnelly will review the costs discrepancy (meals served/ meals charged) with Masters before the next meeting.

Member Semple volunteered to serve on the committee for 2011. Donnelly will continue to serve as a member of the subcommittee and recommended Tom Harrell as EC liaison, for Mundorff's consideration. Harrell will identify a chair for the subcommittee.

#### **E. Access to Justice**

Johnson reported. ALJ Bruce Smith has finished his term as chair. Bill Replogle will assume the chairmanship. Mike Orlando passed on his secretarial duties to ALJ Jenny Ogawa. The committee is working with WCD and the Ombudsman's office to modify their publications with greater emphasis on lawyers as workers' compensation resources for injured workers. Suggestions have included making the OSB's lawyer referral number available in the publications. Some EC members noted that claims are handled more smoothly when claimants are not *pro se*. The committee continues to brainstorm additional goals for 2011.

## **F. Going Forward**

No report.

## **G. New Technologies**

Guarrasi reported. WCB is currently working on the administrative rules.

Anecdotally, Guarrasi reported that SAIF sent him discovery by CD, at his request.

Guarrasi reported that he successfully scanned the materials contained in Member Bohy's box of EC written materials (from his previous term as EC chair and other EC positions). This was no small task. Guarrasi will put the materials on a disc for distribution to all EC members before the first meeting of 2011 and will contact Sarah Hackbart at OSB to see what should be done with the written materials.

## **H. Nominating**

No report.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Johnson recommended making a gift card present to outgoing standing committee chairs, if merited, in recognition for a job well done. Discussion followed. The EC decided that the matter required further study. The issue was tabled for discussion in 2011.

The Executive Committee Meeting was adjourned by Chair Fisher at 1:25 p.m.

The time and place for the first meeting of 2011 will be Friday, January 14, 2011, at noon, at the Oregon State Bar offices in Tigard, Oregon.