

**MINUTES OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
February 12, 2021**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patrick called the meeting to order at 12: 03 pm. Attendance was as follows:

Name	By Remote Conference	Absent
Jovanna Patrick (Chair)	x	
Allison B Lesh (Chair-Elect)	x	
Bruce D Smith (Past Chair)	x	
Linda D Conratt (Treasurer)	x	
Christine Coffelt Frost (Secretary)	x	
Spencer Aldrich	x	
Joe Di Bartolomeo		x
Katherine Caldwell	x	
Martin M Fisher	x	
Philip Harry Garrow	x	
Colin Rockey Hackett		x
Heather L Holt	x	
Halah Ilias	x	
Andrea K Knight	x	
Karli L Olson		x
Jenny Ogawa	x	
Carrie D Wiplinger		x
Joseph Piucci (BOG)		x
Christine Ford (Bar Liaison)	x	

II. MINUTES

Minutes of the January meeting were approved.
Minutes from the Special 2/4/21 February meeting approved.

III. CHAIR REPORT

Jovanna followed up with Zoom/OSB issue. Linda says she understands the Bar really wants the sections to set up their own accounts. Bruce wanted to know how difficult it was to coordinate. Linda said she understands the Bar says there will be lots of conflicts if we use the Bar's zoom. Bruce said the Board has at least 7-10 lines so it would be surprising if the Bar just had one. Chris Frost said she wished the Bar would just tell us what they are expecting and that it looked like we should just get our own line. Jenny says the Salishan Committee has been using Ron Atwood's account. Jovanna thought

it would be more convenient if we just got our own to share with the subcommittees. She said we could create a calendar. Someone would have to do public notice and record meetings. Ford says records have to be preserved for 30 days or until the minutes have been drafted. Ford doesn't think the subcommittees have a public notice requirement. No one knows where the Zoom recording goes.

Heather motioned to get our own account. It was 2nd. Motion passed. Jovanna will reach out to bar to let them know we will agree to have our own Zoom account.

Jovanna confirmed the meeting dates for the remainder of the year: 3/12, 4/9, 5/14, 6/11, 7/9, skip August, 9/10, 10/29 at Salishan, 11/12, 12/10.

Legislative session list. Jovanna said it has been a long time since we've taken a position on any of it, but to review it and let her know if we do want to consider a position on any.

IV. TREASURER REPORT

Linda says end of 2020 we had \$16,201. Linda is about to pay deposit for Salishan. Membership is 325 as of Dec 21.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Access to Justice

Jovanna reported Elyse Lopez is our chair for next 2 years. Post closure treatment. Timing of sponsoring exhibits and limitations on depo requests, Non-binary consideration – Presiding ALJ agree to have party inform everyone else, WCD doing its own modernization project.

ALJ Dougherty says board is not having issues with Zoom hearings. Steve didn't have any idea what MLAC would do with the voc information he provided.

Possible new topics is determining availability of telephone or Zoom witnesses at hearings after hearings are in person again.

B. Salishan/Annual Meeting

Jenny says nothing is new but Holly checking with speakers to see if October works.

C. Bench Bar Forum

Spencer is looking for September program. Working on topics to be different than Salishan.

D. Going Forward

Spencer is still looking into making Section website more user friendly. How to make the links more user friendly. A button on the “contact us” page? New to WC, click this button!

E. Legislative and Rules

Jovanna asked Frost her opinion of this committee. Frost explained that after the Bar dismissed EC’s request for legislation to require an all-lawyer Workers’ Compensation Board, the committee wondered why it did all that ground work when the bar seemed dismissive and didn’t particularly care that non-lawyers are practicing law at the Board. She said the current chair Ben Debney hasn’t called any meetings, but it isn’t clear why a full committee is really needed. Having someone compile a list of legislative and rules issues might be helpful but you didn’t need a whole committee to do that.

Jovanna will ask Ben Debney about status of committee.

Bruce says someone from Legislative and Rules should be on MLAC’s mailing list and keep track of issues to alert EC.

Jenny thought it would be good to keep as standing committee in case it was ever needed, but does not need regular meeting unless there is something pending.

F. Nominations

Phil – nothing to report.

G. Professionalism Award

Bruce – need to send out survey to get nominations for award. When we moved Salishan from May, Bruce wants to know when to send out survey for nominations. He thought it was awkward to have it decided with so many months out from Salishan.

Jovanna wanted to make sure we could vote on it at our July meeting, as there is no August meeting and September is too close to the event.

Bruce thought May might be a good time to send out.

Bruce will look at timeline again keeping in mind a vote on July 9.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Bruce wants to know if Salishan event is set for sure so he can make sure web site has it. Jovanna said go for it!

Ford: Exact date? Oct 29, 30.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The EC meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.

The next meeting will be March 12 at noon on Zoom.