

**THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
October 14, 2022**

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Chair Lesh called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM. Attendance was as follows:
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| Name | By Remote Conference | Absent |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Allison B Lesh (Chair) | X | |
| Christine Coffelt Frost (Chair-Elect) | X | |
| Jovanna Patrick (Past Chair) | X | |
| Andrea K Knight (Treasurer) | X | |
| Martin M Fisher (Secretary) | X | |
| Spencer Aldrich | X | |
| Ian Brown | X | |
| Katherine Caldwell | X | |
| Trish Fleischman | | X |
| Philip Harry Garrow | X | |
| Heather L Holt | X | |
| Halah Ilias | X | |
| Martie McQuain | X | |
| Karli L Olson | | X |
| Jenny Ogawa | X | |
| Christo de Villiers | | X |
| John Young | X | |
| | | |
| (BOG) | | X |
| Logan Stewart (Bar Liaison) | X | |

II. MINUTES

- Approve minutes (September 9, 2022)
 - Approved unanimously.

III. CHAIR REPORT

- OSB swearing-in ceremony
 - John Young suggested that next year we try to be more innovative. Spencer discussed the table arrangement.
- November meeting
 - Will be 11/18 because regular scheduled would be Veteran's Day.
- HOD meeting October 28

- Allison will attend. Noted an agenda item re whether Bar should extend circuit court jurisdiction to review administrative decisions. Also discussing increasing Bar dues by \$100/year. Allison will report back at next meeting.
- EC member ballot
 - Ballots will go out 11/1 and stay open until 11/18.
- Donation requests
 - Wait until later in year to have better idea re budget before considering donation budget.

IV. TREASURER REPORT

- Andrea report
 - Andrea discussed the August and September financial reports. We now have 300 members in the section.
 - We're coming out a broader COVID waiver period where sections could carry an excess balance, but our balance is currently low enough that we shouldn't need to request a waiver.
- Salishan 2023 – projected budget / registration fee increase
 - Allison noted that we will probably need to increase registration fees due to increased costs from Salishan. Also noted what appears to be a reduction in meat options on the general Salishan menu.
 - Andrea noted that Salishan committee asked us to reconsider not increasing registration fee. Increase could be “significant” in order to break even. She and Allison have crunched the numbers and concluded that a \$50 increase is appropriate and necessary.
 - Allison noted that Jenny sent over historical registration fee figures. It was \$250 in 2019, then went down in 2021 and 2022, to \$225 right now.
 - Logan noted that the Bar is seeing these price increases across the Board.
 - Spencer suggested looking at Skamania as an option.
 - Allison reminded the committee that we previously had contracts negotiated for years at a time, with caps on increases. We no longer have those contracts (and Salishan has changed owners).
 - Jenny noted that Salishan pays the cost of Bench-Bar. Will increase in fees be sufficient to still do that? Or will we need to start charging for Bench-Bar?
 - Allison moved to increase Salishan registration fee \$50 across the board, \$225 to \$275 for regular registration, and from \$175 to \$225 for discounted registration. Spencer seconded. Passed unanimously.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Access to Justice (Jovanna)
 - Waiting to see what WCD comes up with re non-binary identifications on forms.
 - MCO timelines (switching docs w/in 14 days) is still a project in the works.
 - Newer issue re employers who send BJOs are not required to copy claimant attorneys. Requests permission for Access to Justice to work on this issue.

- Discussion was held whether a rule change could bind employers, and how BJOs typically come about via insurers and employers. Allison noted that because this involves the “simultaneous notification” issue that we’ve previously discussed, this would fall within the same scope of consideration.
- Bench/Bar (Spencer)
 - 65 or so people attended. Presentations were good. Spencer caught 3 hours of video, missing last 20 minutes. Venue + AV equipment was \$1,000.
- Going Forward (Spencer)
 - Spencer noted that he is on too many committees and needs someone to take over.
- Legislative and Rules (Chris Frost)
 - Geoff Wren had approached her re addressing the worker benefit fund and statute not allowing access to that fund unless there’s an open accepted claim. He felt, as a mediator, that perhaps there should be a look at whether a broader access to the fund for settlement purposes would be of interest. Chris emailed the chair (Ben) who said in September that it sounded interesting, but nothing’s happened since.
 - Discussion was held. Might be too abstract to address right now, but ask Geoff to come back with more details and how this would incorporate WBF/State participation to resolve future OM exposures.
 - Committee is likewise not very active.
- Professionalism Award (Jovanna)
 - Will be issued next year.
- Salishan (Karli)
 - None
- Nominations (Phil)
 - None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING – November 18, 2022, at 12:00pm via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.