

**MINUTES OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
October 13, 2023**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Frost called the meeting to order 12:03 pm. Attendance was taken as follows:

Member	Present	Absent
Christine Coffelt Frost (Chair)	Y	
Martin M Fisher (Chair-Elect)	Y	
Andrea K Knight (Treasurer)	Y	
Ian T Brown (Secretary)	Y	
Spencer S Aldrich (Member)	Y	
Nicholas D Cordes (Member)	Y	
Trisha Loitz Fleischman (Member)		N
Heidi M Havercroft (Member)	Y	
Martie L McQuain (Member)	Y	
Craig Thomas Miller (Member)	Y	
Karli L Olson (Member)	Y	
Jovanna Patrick (Member)	Y	
Christo J de Villiers (Member)		N
Elyse Waters (Member)	Y	
John C Young (Member)	Y	
Tria Vang (Bar liaison)		N
Danielle Edwards (substitute Bar liaison)	Y	

II. MINUTES

The September 8, 2023, minutes were approved as written.

III. CHAIR REPORT

- John Mark Mills event 10/14 at 2:00 pm
- November 2023 meeting. The second Friday of November (November 10) is an observed holiday (Veterans Day is Saturday, November 11). Date of November meeting is undetermined.
- **New Board Chair.** Joy Dougherty is the new Board Chair. Chris will invite her to attend the November or December EC meeting.
- **Smart Readers donation request.** We received another donation request. We will consider action on donation requests in December.

IV. TREASURER REPORT (Andrea)

The budget circulated to the EC on October 12 was based on the then-most-recent Salishan budget and contract. Salishan must be discussed first.

Karli provided an update that Salishan will be in-person only. The live remote option is no longer required, and only 27 attended virtually last year. It will be filmed for access, but there will not be a live remote option. That will cut down on cost. Holly Ansari has worked hard to narrow the costs down as much as possible. It really can't be whittled down any more.

The Salishan contract is usually signed by July, and it hasn't been signed yet. The contract and budget are separate, and the contract has to be sent to the OSB and signed by an OSB attorney. It needs to be signed by Friday, October 20, or the Salishan conference won't happen.

Chris appreciated the removal of the high-cost, low-benefit component. There's still an AV budget but not as big.

Craig asked what the actual budget would be with the change to the AV component. Craig also asked about the \$9,200 Friday evening social, since he hasn't had the opportunity to go to Salishan. Chris invited him to come and bring the kids.

Nick emphasized that the Salishan budget has been whittled down as much as possible. The delay in finalizing the event has resulted in the loss of the weekend before Mothers' Day, and the timeline requires immediate approval to even have the event.

Jovanna asked about the Saturday breakfast, which typically has low attendance. Nick answered that Saturday breakfast has been an area of cost-cutting. We've reduced breakfast options, maybe down to just pastries, coffee, and tea.

Martin asked about the marketing budget of \$1,000; we don't get printed materials anymore. Answer, we don't pay for paper and postage but the online brochures don't create themselves.

Andrea noted that the OSB would ordinarily charge \$10 per person to enter registrations, but we're planning to save that by entering each registration manually.

Martin recommended increasing the conference fee at least \$10 next year. Chris agreed and recommended a higher price for non-section-members. Karli agreed, noting that Salishan's a good deal on a per-credit basis. Instead of thinking how to pare down the budget further, think about how much to raise registration costs to keep the benefits we've always had. Members

wouldn't be upset about another \$10 or \$30. Jovanna agreed, we could probably raise it \$50.

Nick noted that we haven't recently been getting the kind of donations for Salishan that we had in the past, and we'll be focusing on that more. Anyone interested in sponsoring Salishan can get ahold of Carlotta Alverson.

Andrea noted that the section budget was prepared without assuming Salishan donations. Nick agreed, suggesting that we'll probably be at the low end for donations at first.

Karli noted that there's no line for payment of speakers. Andrea noted that we have paid for speakers sometimes.

Martin noted that the contract refers to the AV package that includes the Zoom package we don't want anymore. How to approve the contract now that we've taken that out? Confident in Holly's skills, Chris suggested just telling her that Zoom is out and let her handle it from there. Craig was okay approving the contract that way. Andrea agreed, but wanted to revise the number to put in the budget to give to OSB. Martin calculated the revised AV budget to be \$3,906 saving \$2,963.60 from the earlier \$6,869.60 AV budget.

The Salishan contract was approved unanimously, along with requests that the Salishan committee look at increasing registration fees and charging non-section-members higher fees. Salishan budget was approved unanimously. Karli will get to Holly as soon as possible and will cc Chris on the e-mails.

Bench-Bar budget was discussed next. Spencer reported that, this year, it ended up about \$6,500, including \$5,500 for venue and food, plus bar registration costs around \$900. Asking for \$7,500 next year to give us some headroom. We had almost 90 attending this year, a big increase from 60, and it could be more next year. Moving into the Portland area probably helped with attendance.

Chris asked about the registration fee. Andrea answered that it's in the budget based on \$20 per person at 87 registrations.

Bench-Bar budget was approved unanimously.

Section budget was discussed next. The budget looks a little better with recent changes, but still looks ominous. We were projected to end 2024 with \$2,411. With the AV change, it's a couple thousand better, but still a significant loss. Chris observed that it does not bode well. Andrea observed the reality food costs are up for both Salishan and Bench-Bar, and we have to charge more to keep them going.

Martin asked whether we have a bar-imposed obligation to make donations as a section, and Dani answered that we do not. Martin, seeing how dire the situation is, proposed that we contribute to neither other organizations nor our own demise. Spencer suggested removing the \$1,500 line item now, but Chris suggested leaving the line item in and letting next year's EC decide what to do with it.

Karli asked for a sense about how the EC would feel about increasing Salishan registration to \$300, as a sentiment to take to the Salishan committee. She received a positive response, along with the sentiment that Salishan should make more money.

Chris noted that the budget looked like a worst-case scenario, and some things might look better later. Salishan and Bench-Bar might increase fees, we might not make donations. We're on the road, we'll keep going down that path and keep the wolf off the door.

The section budget was approved unanimously.

Andrea updated us regarding the August financial statement, not yet e-mailed. Nothing surprising, numbers included in the YTD portion of the budget, there was a \$20 Zoom charge.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A Access to Justice (Jovanna)

The committee composed the letter to the Bar requesting permission to ask the WCD to form an advisory committee for rulemaking to look into the issues of MCO list updating and timelines to switch to MCO providers, addressing the criteria under *Keller v. State Bar of California*, 496 U.S. 1 (1990).

Craig liked the letter, noting it's a particular issue in eastern Oregon, it can take months for some claimants to get care, some doctors have their own rules and limits not identified on the MCO list, and it's hard to explain to claimants why they can't get their time loss.

Martin thought the letter hit all the points. He wondered if we could get statistics demonstrating the disparity for rural counties. Chris suggested that WCD might be able to get those statistics if they were asked to form an advisory committee.

The motion to approve the committee's letter passed unanimously. Dani will get Chris the e-mail address to send the letter to Susan Grabe.

B Bench-Bar (Spencer)

This year's event was successful, a big increase from 60-some registrants last year. The only real complaint was the accessibility of the facility. Even so, it would be a good place to do next year's event, although the venue was close to maximum capacity with tables for eating.

Chris suggested limiting the free or low-cost things we provide for students, considering the section's financial concerns and tightness of the space. Spencer noted that roughly 10 attendees were students or new lawyers with free attendance.

It was good to get students to connect, although we don't know if that converted to other opportunities yet. We could probably charge more next year without raising a fuss.

C Going Forward (Spencer)

The committee needs to freshen its membership. Will probably send an e-mail to the listserve. Chris noted that's okay, we don't need to vote on that.

D Professionalism Award (Jovanna)

N/A

E Salishan/Annual Meeting (Karli)

Already discussed.

F Nominations (Martin)

Chris and Trish are leaving the EC and need replacements. ALJ Van Quan and claimants' attorney Derrick Louie have been invited and have accepted. Their nominations were accepted unanimously.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. Next Meeting

The November meeting will not be held on the regular second Friday date. Is there a reason to meet in November?

Dani asked if there was already a slate of officers approved. We need to give OSB a full slate by December 1. Martin will be Chair, Ian, Chair-Elect, Andrea, Treasurer. Chris asked if we had a secretary lined up. Nobody volunteered. Christo was the only member not present, was he supposed to be the Secretary next year? We'll need to confirm a Secretary. We'll need to meet in November, and we'll need a quorum.

Next meeting will probably be Thursday, November 9, or Monday, November 13.

The EC meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm.