

**MINUTES OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

January 19, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fisher called the committee to order 12:01 pm. Attendance was taken as follows:

II. ATTENDANCE

Member	Role	Present?	Absent?		
Martin M Fisher	Chairperson	Y			
Ian T Brown	Chair-Elect	Y			
Andrea K Knight	Treasurer	Y			
Spencer S Aldrich	Secretary		N		
Nicholas A Yanchar	BOG Contact	Y			
Dani Edwards (for Tria Vang)	Bar Liaison	Y			
Craig Thomas Miller	Member		N		
Heidi M Havercroft	Member	Y			
Elyse M Waters	Member	Y			
Christo J de Villiers	Member	Y			
John C Young	Member	Y			
Nicholas D Cordes	Member	Y			
Martie L McQuain	Member	Y			
Jovanna L Patrick	Member	Y			
Van B Quan	Member	Y			
Lourdes Sanchez Marte	Member	Y			
Karli L Olson	Member	Y			
Derrick A Louie	Member	Y			

III. MINUTES

The 12/8/23 minutes were approved as written.

IV. CHAIR REPORT

The EC directory on the Bar’s WC Section website is out of date, so he’ll work on getting that updated.

V. TREASURER REPORT (Andrea)

The November 2023 financial report was emailed to the EC members. There was a \$9,648 balance at the end of November, after \$20 in recurring expenses during the month. We had 300 section members, including 273 paying members. The approved 2024 budget was also emailed to the EC.

Martin noted to the new members that EC decided not to make donations in 2023. Usually we make donations, but our budget is tight right now. If you know of any practitioners who aren't section members, encourage them to join the section, go to Salishan, spend money.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Access to Justice (Jovanna)

We haven't heard back from the Bar regarding the request to the Director regarding MCOs. Hopefully, there will be an update next meeting. Subcommittee has also been working on a project regarding the simultaneous service of documents to claimants' and defense attorneys. Subcommittee is identifying where the problems are and will probably ask EC to ask WCD to study the issue.

Review of MCO issue for new members. The Access to Justice subcommittee was working on a request to ask the WCD to form an advisory committee for rulemaking to look into the MCO list updating and the timelines to switch to MCO providers. The concern regards timelines for getting medical treatment within timelines set by MCOs. 14 days doesn't make sense given delays in mailings, in doctors offices, etc. The Bar was concerned about whether the request would be germane to the administration of justice. The EC and Access to Justice sent the Bar a letter requesting permission to make its request to WCD.

B. Bench Bar (Nik Yanchar)

Nik read Spencer's report indicating that last year's event was such a success, near capacity for the venue, that the subcommittee is looking for a new venue. Derrick added that there was some trepidation about charging for Bench Bar for the first time last year, but it didn't seem to chill engagement. There might be room to raise it again.

C. Going Forward (Nik Yanchar)

Nik read Spencer's report that they're looking to get the subcommittee going again.

D. Professionalism Award (Jovanna)

The subcommittee usually reaches out to the section for nominations in February, but needs to do it promptly because Salishan is earlier this year. The last three chairs review

nominations and bring recommendation or several to the EC. Probably decide at the March meeting.

Last year, a lot of people said they didn't get notice of the nominations. If you don't get it by the end of January, let Jovana know.

E. Salishan/Annual Meetin (Karli)

Things are heating up, it's pretty much figured out.

F. Nominations (Martin)

No report, no openings to nominate for at the moment.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Finalize approval of Salishan fees at \$300 for section members, \$350 for non-section members, \$250 for WCB/WCD employees (attorneys and ALJs), \$250 for new members, and \$200 for legal assistants and paralegals. Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Nik is our point person for direct communication with the Board of Governors.

VIII. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be on February 9, 2024 by Zoom

Adjourned at 12:38 pm