

Washington State Chapter of the FBA Monthly Meeting

Minutes of December 14, 2020

1. Attendance:

Due to a conflict that arose for President Susan Pitchford, President-elect Diane Butler presided over the webex meeting, which began at 12:00 p.m. and concluded at 12:50 p.m. Attending by video were Joan Brady, Cynthia Rios, and Scott Manakee; Greg McLawson joined by phone. Member Mary Neil from the Lummi Tribe also joined by phone for the last few minutes of the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Cynthia Rios moved for approval of the November minutes. After being seconded by Joan Brady, the motion carried with unanimous approval.

3. Bylaws and Open Officer Positions:

- a. Vote on Bylaws – Diane Butler moved for approval of the bylaws, Joan Brady seconded, and the motion carried with unanimous approval.
- b. Secretary’s Report – No report other than the minutes.
- c. Treasurer – Diane Butler moved for Meliha Jusupovic to be approved as Treasurer, conditional on her confirmation of her previously-expressed interest and her enrollment as a Washington State FBA member. Joan Brady seconded, and the motion for provisional approval of Meliha Jusupovic as Treasurer was unanimously approved.

4. Liaisons:

- a. WD Representative – remains open at present. No one participating on the call is currently a member of the WD organization. Diane Butler reported on her attendance at a recent FBA-WDWA event. Diane’s colleague is a past-president of that organization and is receptive to proposed collaboration. Diane will ask her colleague for recommendations, but also encouraged all participants to submit any appropriate names for consideration.
- b. ED Representative – remains open, Diane will inquire to see if her colleague might also be able to provide names of ED individuals who would have interest.
- c. Tribal Liaison – Scott Manakee provided several names of people who might have interest. Diane and/or Susan will reach out to them to follow-up.
- d. Diversity & Inclusion Liaison’s Report – Cynthia Rios plans to meet with the FBA National Diversity Liaison, Bryan Branon, on December 16. She will review national materials for the FBA’s Pilot Chapter Program and is currently working on drafting a mission statement. She also will circulate a survey to identify diversity among our current members.
- e. New Lawyers Liaison – Diane Butler moved for Brenda George, Associate General Counsel for Port Madison Enterprises in Suquamish, to be approved as

the New Lawyers Liaison, conditional on her confirmation of interest. Cynthia Rios seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

5. Committees and Projects:

- a. Programming
 - i. Federal Rules
 - ii. Appellate Rules

Diane Butler suggested that our chapter reach out to WD judges who gave a presentation at the recent WD event on the changes of remote hearing practice in federal court in the Covid era.

- b. Membership
 - i. Judicial Outreach – planned for January start.

Diane is a member of the National Membership Committee and provided a general report on that body's activities. National membership has dropped off in the past 2-3 years, from a highpoint of over 18,000. The Covid era offers new opportunities for outreach as members may more easily connect with a national bar association like the FBA, given the prevalence of remote-work. Diane suggested that we invite Judges to join the FBA as honorary members in the near future, and possibly either at the same time or shortly thereafter invite them to speak at an online event.

Joan Brady related her prior experience with inviting federal judges to join the Cincinnati Chapter. As a Career Law Clerk, she offered to help spearhead efforts to reach out to local federal judges, with the caveat that she does not know any of them personally as she did in Cincinnati. Cynthia Rios offered to assist Joan in that effort. In addition, all agreed that it would be beneficial to reach out to our WA members to see if anyone has a personal connection and/or would like to nominate any specific federal judge.

- ii. Lawyer Outreach – Diane is working with Dominic (National Membership) to confirm WA members and “clean up” the rosters. At present there are about (estimated) 200 people with either WA residential or work addresses, but only (est) 100 of those listed on our roster – possibly fewer. Diane suggested that we all consider who we might invite to join.. We will revisit this issue in January.
 - iii. Law Student Outreach – Diane reported that national data shows that many law students join the FBA but drop out after graduation when they are required to pay regular dues.
- c. Communications
 - i. Digital Media – The group briefly discussed the necessity of a website. At present, the consensus was to utilize the national fedbar.org Chapter page platform to post basic information such as officers, bylaws, information and events. Greg McLawsen is looking into setting up both a Listserve and a LinkedIn account; he will reach out to Dominic to ensure consistency with any National guidelines. In addition, Diane suggested

inquiring whether our chapter is able to include all FBA WA attorneys on the listserve, rather than only those who are members of our new chapter. Greg will follow-up and report back in January.

1. Gmail – previously established – no new discussion
 2. LinkedIn – Greg to set up after consulting with Dominic at National FBA.
 3. Listserve – Greg to set up after consulting with Dominic at National FBA.
- ii. Print Media – brief discussion with consensus that no print media is necessary at this time.

6. New Business:

- a. Proposed Motion: On December 14, 2020, the members of the Washington State Chapter of the Federal Bar Association met and approved the Bylaws circulated herewith. (motion made and approved as indicated above)
- b. Next Meeting – January 11, 2021 at noon.
- c. Other – Diane suggested that within the next week or so, each of the Board members draft a basic message that can be used by way of introduction and outreach for building membership.

Joan inquired about the wording of the bylaws. Diane confirmed Board membership (voting and nonvoting) and that we had a quorum for purposes of conducting business.