

Minutes of Washington State Chapter of the FBA Monthly Meeting

November 16, 2020

Susan Pitchford called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm Pacific Time.

All FBA members in the Washington State region who are not currently affiliated with another chapter were invited to participate in this inaugural meeting of the Washington State Chapter. Eleven individuals joined the call. These minutes follow the original **Meeting Agenda** (in **bold**).

- 1. Attendance:** Participants identified their Washington Chapter work and/or home locations and current physical locations (current identified by *).
 - Susan Pitchford, President – Chernoff Vilhauer – *Vancouver / Portland
 - Diane Butler, President Elect – Davis Wright Tremaine – Seattle / *Wyoming
 - Brenda George – Clearwater Casino – Squamish Tribe – *Kitsap County
 - Scott Mannakee – Stillaguamish Tribe – *Arlington
 - David Martin – Perkins Coie - *Seattle
 - Joan Brady – SD Ohio Court - *Bremerton
 - Cynthia Rios – Catholic Community Services (Tenant Services) - *Seattle
 - Jeff Coopersmith – Orrick – Seattle/*Bellevue
 - Lisa Seifert - Seifert Law Offices – *Olympia
 - Tom Vertetis - Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala - *Tacoma
 - Greg McLawsen – Sound Immigration - *Bellevue
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** The previous meeting's minutes will be sent out for formal approval prior to the next meeting on December 14, 2020.

3. History of Washington State Chapter

Susan provided a summary for context. Some years ago, the Western District of WA participated in the National FBA organization. For reasons that remain lost to history, the Western District separated from the National FBA approximately 25 years ago and is no longer affiliated with the National FBA. (See fba-wd-wash.org). A separate organization serves Eastern Washington and is known as the Federal Bar Association for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.

Our new Washington state-wide chapter of the FBA hopes to co-exist and work cooperatively with both of these thriving organizations, but has been formed under the national umbrella in order to provide a more direct link with the National FBA and its resources. Susan stressed that our new Chapter is intended to supplement – not supplant – the existing organizations. Susan asked that every participant on the call spread the word to others who may have interest in this new Chapter.

4. Bylaws and Open Officer Positions:

Susan and Diane invited anyone on the call who was interested to serve as an officer or in any of the roles defined in the bylaws.

- a. Secretary – Joan Brady offered to serve, was nominated and approved to serve a one year term ending on September 30, 2021.
- b. Treasurer – the position remains open for the time being.

5. Liaisons:

Susan invited call participants to serve in any of the following positions:

- a. WD Representative
- b. ED Representative
- c. Tribal Liaison
- d. Diversity & Inclusion Liaison – Cynthia Rios offered and was appointed to serve.
- e. New Lawyers Liaison

6. Committees and Projects:

- a. Programming
 - i. Federal Rules – no discussion
 - ii. Appellate Rules – no discussion

Joan Brady suggested a “Lunch With a Judge” program. Such a program could be formatted over Zoom, could cover judicial process or other topics, with carefully curated participation to allow judges to screen to avoid any potential ethical conflicts with counsel on active cases. Susan, as past President of the OR chapter, offered insight into similar programming (more CLE oriented) by that chapter.

- b. Membership -
 - i. Judicial Outreach – Susan explained the process of nomination. Discussion of planned outreach with honorary membership invitation in January.
 - ii. Lawyer Outreach – Susan invited call participants to spread the word.
 - iii. Law Student Outreach – no discussion
 - iv. Format – Cynthia Ross inquired into the feasibility of future meetings by videoconference. Susan will look into this.
- c. Communications
 - i. Digital Media
 - 1. Gmail – Susan has established a gmail account, WASStateFBA@gmail.com, which can be used for communication with the new chapter.
 - 2. LinkedIn – no discussion

After a brief discussion about setting up a Listserve, Greg McLawsen offered to assist and take this on for the good of the Chapter.

ii. Print Media – no discussion

7. **New Business:**

- a. On November 16, 2020, the officers of the Washington State Chapter of the Federal Bar Association met and approved the opening of a bank account at the Bank of America. The Account shall be a checking account, and authorized signatories shall be Susan Pitchford, Diane Butler, and Joan Brady.
 - i. Lisa Seifert moved
 - ii. Seconded by Cynthia Rios.

Susan called for a voice vote; motion passed with all approving.

- b. Next Meeting – Future meetings will take place on the second Tuesday of each month, with the next meeting scheduled for December 14, 2010.
- c. Other. A caller asked if the minutes would be emailed out. Susan responded yes.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.