

Washington State Chapter of the FBA Monthly Meeting

July 12, 2021

1. **Attendance:** Susan Pitchford was unable to attend; therefore Joan Brady began the meeting, and Diane Butler subsequently took over the lead on the WebEx call. The meeting began at 12:00 p.m. and concluded at 1:04 p.m. In addition to Joan and Diane, Cynthia Rios, Cynthia Cartwright, Scott Mannakee, and Elizabeth Kelley attended.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the May minutes carried unanimously with six votes in favor and no objections or abstentions, but with the provision that approval was subject to confirming the existence of a quorum. A motion to approve the June minutes similarly carried subject to the existence of a quorum; however, the June minutes were approved on four votes in favor with two abstentions.

Following the meeting, Joan Brady reviewed the bylaws. The bylaws state that for purposes of “meetings” (Article VI, Section 2), “[s]even percent of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of this Chapter.” Currently, seven percent (of 43) requires the presence of 3 members for a quorum. Based upon the presence of greater than 3 voting members in good standing, both May and June minutes stand approved.

Please note that the bylaws specify a different quorum (five “Executive Committee members”) for any meetings of the “Executive Committee.” (Article V, Section 8(2)). The Executive Committee consists of 8-9 officer positions as of October 1, 2021, including (in ranked order): President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, National Delegate (can be same as another officer), Native American Representative, Younger Lawyers Division Representative, and the Diversity and Inclusion Representative, together with two nonvoting liaisons from the two regional (unaffiliated with National) FBA organizations

Officer Report:

- a. President’s Report – Susan Pitchford was unable to attend or provide a report. Upon inquiry about the reference to the Federal Litigation Section partnership for Civil Rights CLE on the agenda, Joan recalled that this concerned Susan’s expressed interest, on behalf of our Chapter, in response to solicited outreach from the Cleveland Chapter to help host a Civil Rights CLE. No additional information is known at this time, but Elizabeth offered to help follow up since she used to live in Cleveland and may know some of the organizers.
- b. President Elect’s Report – Diane Butler - 1024 IRS form was returned based upon an insufficiency in the address. Diane will reach out to the nonprofit specialist in her firm to determine how best to remedy and move forward. Diane also completed emailing people on her list of Washington State (resident

or practice) FBA members who belong to the National FBA but have not yet designated our Chapter as their regional affiliate. Diane's letter invited those members to either designate the Washington State Chapter now or in the future at the time of their annual renewal (September 30).

- c. Secretary's Report – Joan Brady also completed emailing the people on her list of existing Washington State FBA members who have not yet designated our Chapter as their regional affiliate. Joan also offered that, from her perspective, we may want to focus on highlighting National membership benefits when speaking with existing (but not Nationally affiliated) regional WD and ED “fba” members (lower case “fba” used to differentiate). Some percentage of those fba members are likely to have interest in a more National connection. Joan and Diane belong to both the regional bars and the National FBA, Washington State Chapter; the regional bar is well-established, but the National FBA is worth joining (despite higher dues) precisely because of its national benefits, which are now enhanced by the existence of a Statewide affiliated Chapter. National is offering a 30% membership discount for new National FBA members who begin their membership in 2021-2022 and designate our Washington State chapter as their regional National affiliate. Prior to the availability of that discount, we as a Chapter are inviting interested folks to “join” our meetings to learn more about us.
- d. Treasurer - Meliha Jusupovic did not attend, but plans to check with banks other than Bank of America to determine if we can open a business account without (yet) having our IRS designation as a 501(c)(6) organization (not charitable, just bar association).

3. Liaisons:

- a. WD Representative – Joan Brady proposed appointing a current member of our Chapter in these “liaison” or “Representative” Executive Committee positions rather than letting them remain unfilled. Diane Butler confirmed that the Bylaws do not require that the WD and ED Representative positions be persons who serve on the Boards of those regional bar associations. Joan proposed we bring this issue up again at the August meeting.
- b. ED Representative – vacant position see above.
- c. Tribal Liaison – Cynthia Cartwright – reports that the draft letter of introduction to our Chapter is ready to send out to tribal attorneys. Cynthia is leaving her position with the Lummi Tribe as of July 13, but plans to remain fully engaged as Tribal Liaison for our Chapter. Cynthia can be reached after July 13 at Attorneycartwright@gmail.com.
- d. Diversity & Inclusion Liaison's Report/Affinity Bar Liaison – Cynthia Rios continues to await final National approval on edits to the diversity survey that

she/SDNY chapter had worked on. Regarding Membership efforts, Cynthia completed her list of calls and emails to current National FBA members who live in or practice in our state. Two people on her list want to designate Washington State as their home chapter; she will be following up with a third person who also expressed interest. The group recapped the nature of “Affinity Bar Liaison” which is a newly created position at the request of National FBA. Cynthia agreed to be our Chapter representative for that position, but currently is focusing on membership growth.

- e. New Lawyers Liaison - Brenda George did not attend, no report. Diane and Joan offered brief discussion about future efforts to add law students (important for long-term growth but no dues benefit the chapter, and have a high post-graduation attrition rate as full-fledged FBA members) and new lawyers (can be harder to enroll than law students, but tend to be more actively engaged and pay full dues that are remitted to the Chapter).

4. Committees and Projects:

- a. Programming

Diane Butler brought up several programming ideas to work on implementation once she becomes President on October 1, 2021. The first meeting after Diane takes office would be October 11 (second Monday). Diane proposed holding that meeting as a cocktail hour or other similar in-person meeting in Seattle. Diane noted that the day is Indigenous People Day (f/k/a Columbus Day) and suggested inviting tribal attorneys to highlight both the National and our Chapter’s focus on inclusion. However, Tribal Liaison Cynthia Cartwright noted potential for competing tribal celebrations, and Joan expressed doubt about whether federal judges would attend on a holiday. In addition, our Chapter may not have funds in an account prior to October 1, 2021. After discussion, the group agreed that perhaps a November in-person meeting would be more feasible.

As part of the general discussion, Diane expressed eagerness to begin local programming, which she believes will help with marketing to potential new members. Cynthia Rios has several excellent contacts for future speakers, as does Diane. One of several ideas mentioned by Diane was trying to coordinate something with a future visit to the area by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

- b. Communications

Greg McLawsen was not present at the meeting to provide an update. Diane expressed interest in getting a Listserve up and running in the near future so as to help with marketing and communication among Washington State Chapter members. Diane will circle back with Greg to check on the status of this project, as

Joan recalled that he had discussed several issues at one of our prior meetings. (See Jan. and Feb 2021 minutes).

5. New Business:

- a. Annual meeting – Sept. 23-25 Miami – need to select 2 chapter delegates. Diane Butler, Cynthia Rios and Elizabeth Kelley all plan to attend.
- b. Next Meeting – Aug. 9, 2021 at noon
- c. Other (appointment of regional FBA “liaison” positions from current Chapter membership – see above).