

Executive Council Meeting - Joe's Stone Crab - January 19, 2024

Paolo called the meeting to order at 11:52 a.m.

Council members present: Paolo Longo, Karen Cullen, Sean McCormack, Tracey Hyde, Philip Augustine, Holley Akers, Neil Ambekar, Lance Avera, Courtney Bahe, Matt Carrillo, Richard Chait, Lizzette Francisco, Robert Friedman, Leo Garcia, Karen Gilmartin, Ken Hesser, Chris McClure, Rick Morales, Joanne Prescott, Sal Richardson, Henry Roman, Chris Smith, Mike Srebnick, Brian Sutter, Kim Syfrett, Mark Touby, Matt Troy, Glen Wieland, and Mike Winer.

Emeritus members present: Paul Anderson, Dawn Traverso, and Tim Dunbrack

Council members absent: Lorna Brown-Burton (was attending a BOG meeting); Mark Eckels, Rosemary Eure, Richard Manno, Rogers Turner, and Ya'Sheaka Campbell Williams.

Guests attending were Jordan Anderson, Jennifer Kipke, Judge Jeffrey Jacobs, and Lobbyist Jonathan Kilman.

Minutes from the 10/20/23 were reviewed, Motion to accept by Neil Ambekar, seconded by Rick Morales, approved.

Treasurer's report by Sean McCormack \$459,902, amazing amount. We are in good shape. Budget surplus currently. While we are ahead currently, expenses are coming up. Mark Touby looked at budget, but that was for next year. Will look at stuff coming in before the next fiscal year starts on July 1st. Neil moved to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Brian Sutter, passed.

BOG report -Lorna was not here due to attendance at a BOG meeting; she will provide update at the Forum.

CLE -Holly Akers -events are set for up through May, she will reach out for additional participants and subjects.

Legislative -Richard Chait. We are blessed to have our lobbyist, immediate click w/Richard. Been in TLH, full steam ahead until first week of March. Bills in progress at legislature, one from judiciary committee, usually comes in through other committees. Title is "an alternative to FL W/C" where is this coming from? Texas has insurance opt-out provision for w/c. Reached out to judiciary committee members and will provide intel. Put together talking points and got it out to FWA members. Able to have beat it down for now, but (lobbyist talking) -do we need to be concerned? Out of state entity with a for-profit purpose trying to influence FL law, lobbying a former speaker of the house to try to bring this forward. Need to remain vigilant- in Oklahoma, it was found unconstitutional. Mississippi and SC are looking at this also. Defense attorneys need to decide if we're going to discuss w/our clients this option. This is just a concept.

There is an actual bill in process to increase hourly rates for doctors in deposition from \$200 to \$300, no issue with that. Also there is a bill proposing a 200% Medicare reimbursement for docs. 140% - 200% of Medicare for surgical costs. On agenda this coming Tuesday for a second stop in senate. Claimants support reasonable legislation to provide reasonable reimbursement rates for doctors to avoid litigating via IME. Likely to spike rates. 15.1%

decrease in rates. Paolo - Should be area of concern, as w/c affects everyone. E/C counsel, your duty is to employer even though carrier pays the bills. Legislature needs to hear from employers as to impact, get any information to Richard -if these cost increases result in

substantial increases to rates, then TX plan could gain traction.

Tim Dunbrack-asked about dispensing practitioners, Tracey advised re the litigation status of that issue. An ALJ had ruled that dispensing docs were pharmacies, case is on appeal, oral argument occurred 1/16/24, await 1stDCA's decision.

News & 440 -Matt Troy. This issue surrounds appellate issues- next issue is on Inns of Court. There are five of them in FL.

Membership -Karen Gilmartin -Mike Srebnick agreed to join that committee, Karen wants to send out an email, Bar said no to inquiring as to who dropped out of section, but she can cold-call. She will continue to spread the word on why membership is good. Requests help in promoting. Matt says scarlet letter.

Forum -Leo/Mark -163 signed up, rooms almost sold out. Executive council meeting on Wednesday 4/17, followed by a meet/greet with/by the JCCs, then our cocktail reception. JCC breakout on Friday morning, state JNC will bring their show to town and do re-appointment interviews on that Friday. Our contract w/WCCP and hotel only through 2025, WCCP is in negotiations with hotel. Need to get new contract, but lots of money for Omni, do we need to go to another hotel? Not likely, we are actually a fairly small group, so we may not be attractive to other hotels. Leo says the Forum is some folks'only seminar. Neil -looking at any other venues other than Orlando? Mark wasn't sure if WCCP was looking at other venues. Motion by Mark for Leo to continue relationship w/WCCP and communicate with Omni - seconded by Mike Winer. Neil moved for authorization to continue to communicate w/WCCP, seconded by Lance Avera, passed. We may get two more years out of it at the Omni, then unknown.

Judicial committee -Mark Touby -need to create a professionalism task force, propose to meet every 4-6 weeks by Zoom w/JCCs Kerr, Pitts, Johnsen, Langham; share ideas, quell notion that judges have personnel agendas. Promote JCC forums.

Board cert -Tracey Hyde -we continue to promote as best we can. Provided update on board cert committee and creation of this year's exam.

Technology -no report.

Sponsorship -Lissette, max sponsors at ski trip, room for more sponsors at upcoming Forum, Lance Avera to contact firms to inquire.

Emerging Leaders -Neil Ambekar -10 courses available, new w/c course. Paolo discussed mentoring, putting together mentor list. Tracey encouraged signing up for the lawyers helping lawyers program sponsored by the Bar.

Health/wellness -Sean - yoga class next week w/Kelli Hastings.

Long range planning -Karen Cullen. Need to continue to promote bar/bench relationship. Reach out to law schools to promote w/c. 50 years of WCS in 2025- volunteer committee -

Sean McCormack, Ken Hesser volunteered for committee. Karen Cullen working with Willie Mae on Napa, hope to have final dates today or Monday.

Chair remarks -Paolo -professionalism has been the word of the year, Langham requests stressing that. Neil has been fantastic; Paolo has been running around doing JCC roundtables, has done many through the state. Miami and Palm Beach left to go. Miami is March 28, Palm Beach on 3/29. Glen said large undertaking, well done. Law school outreach. Trial ad course-looking at maybe doing it every year rather than every other year. Ray Malca could use somehelp. Glen thinks we could fill it every year. Dawn recommends a committee be

appointed toassist Ray Malca in doing that. Karen Gilmartin, Judge Jeff Jacobs, Ken Hesser, and Matt Troy all volunteered.

Karen Cullen mentioned maybe seeking a sponsor(s) for long range planning meeting and/or ski trip. Speakers need to register for it to help offset cost.

Tim Dunbrack advised Jeff Appel passed away late last year, wanted to notice him, publish something in News/440 report, Mike Winer offered to do a short blurb for him.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Winer, seconded by everyone, meeting adjourned 12:59 p.m.