

Minutes of Section Annual Meeting of June 19, 2020 via Zoom conference call

Chair Hamm called the meeting to order.

General Business

Chairperson Hamm noted that section member had remained steady at 553 members. General good and welfare was shared.

Secretary Chizick welcomed section members to review the section webpage with council meeting minutes and other valuable information.

Treasurer Frame advised that our revenue has increased with more members. Our financial picture is good, and trending toward a higher balance.

Director Nolish advised of current Michigan Covid-19 statistics. Executive Order 2020-128 was cited and explained. Director Nolish confirmed that there is no committed date for a return to in person hearings. There are 11 hearing sites that are all subject to occupancy limits and resulting concerns of health checks and cleanliness. Director Nolish advised of more than 100 employees of the WCA to keep safe. The Director was unsure of what the new normal will be for hearings, but cited the New York state example of 257,781 hearings, with 99% of them being handled in a virtual manner. Director Nolish was evaluating court record software options. A general dialogue was had regarding opening issues, with many members expressing a concern about the need for reopening the hearing system for live hearings. Director Nolish is looking at testing out e-hearing options and warned of a need for a culture shift. Members expressed concerns about due process.

Chairperson Royal advised that there are 42 cases currently pending before the Commission.

Appellate Update

Michael Reinholm provided an update regarding appellate issues and cases recently addressed by appellate courts.

Hall Of Fame

Rosa Bava and Debbie Strain introduced Hall of Fame Honoree Cynthia Krieger. Ms. Krieger spoke about the honor and graciously accepted same.

Magistrate Chris Slater introduced Hall of Fame Honoree Roy Portenga. Mr. Portenga spoke about the honor and graciously accepted same.

50-year State Bar Members

Rick Lovernick introduced and honored 50-year section members Samuel Gabriel, James Geroux, Stephen Redisch, Frederic Ruby and Michael Zipser.

The Donald Ducey Civility Award

Rosa Bava introduced the background behind the foundation of this award. Cam McComb spoke about the honor and graciously accepted same on behalf of the Ducey family.

Elections

Votes were taken and on the motion of Ella Parker, and the second of Dennis Flynn, the following were elected unanimously:

Chair: Rosa Bava
Vice Chair: Jayson Chizick
Secretary: Phil Frame
Treasurer: Matt Conklin

At large:

- **term ending 2023:** Alicia Birach, Jacob Bender and Sean Shearer

Chris Westgate moved to adjourn meeting. Phil Frame seconded. All voted for adjournment. Meeting concluded.

Respectfully submitted,
Jayson Chizick
Secretary