

Environmental & Energy Law Section
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL
FOLLOWING LEGISLATIVE FORUM
May 13, 2020

In Attendance: Please see Attached Attendance List

Approval of January 30, 2020 Executive Committee Minutes:

- JANUARY MINUTES APPROVED

Membership Status & Initiatives

- Mike: as of 1/28, 1031 members, 13 new, 8% government attorneys, 21% 35 and under, 29% 35-46, 50% over 46
- Nick- really pushing law schools to increase #'s
- Reminders should be sent to past members to rejoin the section
- Initiatives to lower membership fees would be helpful
-

Status of NYSBA Incentives for Attracting Government Attorneys (Nick)

- as per governmental attorneys – the cost of bar association fees is issue for them to join
- Jim and Nick spoke to Hank Greenberg re: lowering fees.
- Letter will be written and other sections would like to join in with letter
- Letter should be sent to Karen Baster. NYSBA would be conforming to what other states are already doing. \$475 State Bar fee is what needs to be reduced.

Social Media:

- Section spent a lot of time building LinkedIn page
- Be sure to like and share posts
- Frank: 4 words or more gets more traction and the more comments, the higher on the feed the post moves

Mohonk:

- Linda: issue with fee for canceling Mohonk
- Nick: 2 main issues are contract and how do we have meeting
- Might have to have force majeure clause; yet too early to enforce
- 91-180 days out is \$55,000 penalty if canceled
- Discussions will continue and executive committee kept informed
- Need to reimagine ideas but fall meeting will be abbreviated
- Open to discussions and ideas from all

- Need to reachout to director of sales and lay groundwork to begin discussions re: contract
- Discussion re: skipping this years event and apply credit to 2021 instead
-

Annual Meeting:

- Probably will not be a live event
- Lisa: will provide updates as the

House of Delegates Update:

- Amy: April 1st virtual meeting went well
- Pandemic overshadowed discussions
- Requests were made that committees and sections put on webinars and Zoom CLes
 - Reports Discussed– approved task force report re: attorneys in rural communities aging out and reluctance of attorneys to go into rural communities
 - State Bar Exam: Recommended scrapping uniform bar exam, environmental section approved
 - NY section in UBE not sufficient
 - NY section has to be administered
 - Free expression in digital age and the decline of journalism
 - If you want more info. on reports contact Amy

Financials:

- Lump sum for annual meeting. Lisa will get the backup from last years meeting for review of fees

Upcoming Events:

May 21 11-12 Webinar:

- Registration info. will be sent out
- Topic: averting next pandemic in NY re: lessons learned and preparation
- No charge to members and open to non members
- Executive committee members should post about it

May 28 11-12 Webinar:

- Program for CLE credits; regulation of disinfectants and state views
-

Event for 2nd week of June Topics:

- Marla: get someone from EPA re: disinfectants; civil and criminal enforcement should be discussed by someone from region 2
- Getting Back to Work
- Related issues of bankruptcy and environmental issues: Nick Rigano will put program together late June

Oil Symposium (Melissa Valley):

- Separate program that should not be combined with fall program
- It should be broadcast even if it's a live event so all can watch
- In person meeting is preferred but open to webinar
- Considering sept/oct, but not close to fall meeting; dates will need to be coordinated so events are not held too close

Statute of Limitations for SEQRA:

- Dan: seeking clarity on when statute runs
- Reach out to other groups who would be interested

Feep Task Force:

- comments submitted on updating regulations beginning March and shared with Congress and DEC and all seem to be in sync
- Final rule out in next few months
- Lookout for new regulations coming out for NYS and contact with attorney general and DEC

Upcoming Program Dec. 2 Brownfield/Superfund Update (Gail):

- Held in Albany
- Will not be cosponsored with City Bar

Minority Fellowship (Sarah):

- Formulating plans; get news out to next years students
- Revised scheduled has been drafted re: outreach
- Needs more revisions due to pandemic
- Connected with Mike Gerard and update lists and contacts of schools/professors
- Might defer fellowship til next summer due to Covid but this is up for discussion

Social Media (Rachel):

- Doing really well and growing more everyday
- Group LinkedIn page is getting a lot of traction
- Like/share and comment on posts to grow attention
- Programs are being advertised on the page so continue to keep sending program info.

Amy Kendall:

- Communities is a different platform
- Communities has 2 sign ins
- Some posts are different to keep it interesting

Green Amendment:

- Won't pass green amendment as proposed
- Message to Ron Kennedy to get further information

NY Environmental Lawyer Publication (Miriam):

- Send articles to Miriam
- 3 published articles
- Ideas for programs requested should be sent to Nick Ward Willis

Miscellaneous:

- We should do free CLE's as people need assistance due to pandemic; this effort would show good will to help grow membership

PARTICIPANTS BY CONFERENCE CALL
IN MAY 13, 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

James P. Rigano
Michael Bogin
Alan Knauf
Linda Shaw
Kevin Bernstein
Daniel Richmond
Drew Gamils
Yvonne Hennessey
Laura Godly
Melissa Valle
Gail Port
David Freeman
Aliza Cinamon
Susan Amron
Amy Kendall
Barry Kogut
Martin Baker
Robert Knoer
Philip Dixon
Nick Ward Willis