

SCWLA Board Meeting
Minutes
November 30, 2016

Attendance:

Live in Columbia, SC: Sheila Bias, Cindy Ouzts, Kelly Jolly, Julie Moose, Kelly Jolly, Karen Huelson, Liz Zeck, Amie Clifford, Lynsey Kmetz

Live in Charleston, SC: Laura Patton, Molly Cherry, Ayesha Washington

Via Telephone: Tara Shurling, Jenni Cerrati, Jennifer Howe, Hannah Metcalf

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:09 p.m.

II. Minutes

Julie Moose moved to approve the minutes, the motion was seconded by Cindy Ouzts. The minutes were approved.

III. President's Report

a. By Laws Changes

Will be voted on later, but an update is that the Regions will be electing board members directly under the new by-laws.

b. Board Elections

This year we received no applications for Board Membership from the general members. A discussion occurred as to why that may be.

In addition, 7 current board members decided not to submit their names for re-election. Several reasons were given for the decision including life choices and wanting to make room for newer board members who had not previously served. However, this has resulted in no representation on the board from the Grand Strand Region, the Olde English Region, the Pee Dee Region (notwithstanding Marguerite and Julie), and only 1 representative from the Sea Island Region. This highlights the importance of having regional boards. Additional commentary related to Board Members not attending events in their home region and a general sense of disconnect of our membership from the Board.

The Board elections have resulted in regions of the state not having any representation on the Board and a reduction in our Board from 25 members to 18 members. A suggestion was made to consider approving a special election to allow the regions to elect someone to the Board. Another board member suggested that we ask members to join the Board. Discussion had regarding general membership members we could approach about being on the board.

c. Professional Development Committee – Revamp

Another goal this year was to re-vamp the Professional Development Committee. That was a success. The Emerging Leader Award was given during the Awards Reception and the Professional Development CLE went well.

- d. Byelaws Revamp

The goal of revamping the By-Laws should be reached today.

- e. Regions – Needs to be fixed

The goal of improving regional participation and regional leadership structure is still being worked on.

- f. Membership Drive

Membership forms have gone out, encourage everyone to sign-up for SCWLA with Bar dues or pay online. At last meeting, our membership totaled 920 members. Two members have approached the Board with a plan to reach members who have not rejoined. They would like to create a special email address and draft an email to go out to those individuals. They propose to manage the account and the responses.

- IV. Treasurer’s Report – Molly Cherry

The treasurer distributed the financial records of the organization. We have already had some revenue from membership renewals come in. For purposes of the 2017 budget, if anyone has additional expenses they anticipate for next year, please communicate that to Mikki and Molly. A discussion occurred with regard to certain expenditures over income and the use of regional funding. Further discussion was had related to the budget conference and expenditures and the impact that lack of sponsorships may have had on the funding.

- V. SCWLA Foundations – Liz Zeck

Board Member Zeck has requested an expenditure to revise the SCWLA website to allow for a “donate” button to be placed for Foundation donations. In addition, Board Member Zeck noted that the Foundation will change its donation strategy to seeking money from individuals rather than fundraising events.

- VI. Committees

- a. Bylaws Committee – Changes (Ayesha Washington)

The Committee thanks Board Member Amie Clifford for her hard work in summarizing and suggesting proposed language on the Bylaws Changes. This was instrumental in reviewing the language and creating an organized view of the changes during the October Conference call.

1. **Motions to Approve the Changes to the Bylaws.**

- **Article 5, Sections 1 and 2
Motion to Accept the Proposed Changes
Motion Carries**
- **Article 6, Sections 1, 2, and 3**

Motion to Accept the Proposed Changes

Discussion regarding changing date reference from 2018 to 2017. This friendly amendment is accepted. Discussion related to back-up provisions in the event that no one applies; this will likely be remedied through regional representation.

- **Article 7, Section 1 and 2 and 5**
Motion to Accept the Proposed Changes
Motion Carries

- **Article IX, Section 4 and 7**
Motion to Accept the Proposed Changes
Motion Carries

- **Article XII**
Discussion regarding the fact that this amendment does not replace anything, but merely corrects the error in the numbering of the current bylaws. Further discussion regarding number of regional members in each region being at or exceeding 20 members.
Motion to Accept the Proposed Changes
Motion Carries.

- **Article XIV, Sections 1, 2, and 3**
Motion to Accept Proposed Changes
Motion Carries

Board Member Ayesha Washington notes that there are still a number modifications that need to be made at a later date. She is compiling those notes for future votes.

b. Community Outreach Committee

Written Report submitted by Allyce Bailey

c. Fall 2016 Awards Reception Committee

Written Report submitted by Amanda Williams

d. Fall 2017 Annual Conference Planning Education Committee – Jennifer Howe

Oral Report. The committee is looking for co-chairs for the event as one of the Board Members is currently rolling off of the board. The event is currently scheduled for September 29, 2017 at the Hyatt Regency in Greenville. There is currently one speaker lined up from D.C. In addition the committee has spoken with Beth Hamilton, who would like to speak about what the Bar is trying to do with regard to pro bono work.

The conference currently does not have a theme and they are looking for committee members. A discussion was had related to vendors utilized for the putting on the Conference.

e. Long Range Planning Committee

No Report

- f. Media/Communications Committee

No Report

- g. Membership Committee

No Report

- h. Military Sub-committee

Written Report Submitted

- i. Nominating Committee – Marguerite Willis (Kelly Jolly)

Oral Report. The Committee reports that Julie Moose has decided to decline the Position of SCWLA President for the 2017 year.

- j. Professional Development Committee

Written Report Submitted by Sheila Bias.

- k. Regional Activity Committee

Oral Report. Status of Regional Representatives was given. Suggestions regarding replacement regional representative in areas where we are currently without a representative.

- i. Supreme Court Trip Committee

Oral Report. Board Member Amie Clifford reports that even though we had two last minute cancellations, we still met our hotel block. In addition, everyone liked the new hotel selection. There are still a few outstanding receipts. Further, the committee will consider waiting until 2018 for the next admissions trip. This year we were unable to hold a reception because the hotel wanted us to rent meeting space. For future trips, we will need to consider a restaurant or some other location.

VII. New Business

- a. Membership Drive

This was previously addressed.

- b. Sarah Leverette – Medical 12.04.16/ Civil Air Patrol Award Ceremony

Sarah Levertte has recently had heart surgery and is recovering. Everyone is invited to the Civil Air Patrol Awards Ceremony for the Civil Air Patrol, where she will be honored.

- c. Annual Meeting Notice

Secretary Bias to confirm that the annual meeting was had this year. If not, we will consider having a virtual annual meeting before the end of the year.

VIII. Next Board Meeting

Bar Convention in Greenville – January 21, 2017.

IX. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 1:25