

SCWLA Board Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2018

In-Person – Hilton Head

Board Members attending: *In- person:* Allyce Bailey, Molly Cherry, Amie Clifford, Mary LaFave, Sheila Willis, Margie Pizarro, Kristen Nichols, Marguerite Willis, Bhumi Patel, Mary Beth Pfister

Board Members absent, excused: Julie Moose, Nancy Olah, Sima Patel, Laura Paton, Richele Taylor

Board Members absent, unexcused: Liz Zeck

Others in Attendance: Mikki Lindler, Stephanie Nye, Johanna Valenzuela, Emily Boatwright

I. Call to Order

President Sheila Willis called the meeting to order at approximately 6:25 p.m.

II. Recognition

President Willis recognized Marguerite Willis and Margie Pizarro for their efforts in soliciting sponsorship. She also recognized Stephanie Nye and Johanna Valenzuela for planning the Conference.

III. President's Report

In August, President Willis began her term on the Board of Directors for the National Conference of Women's Bar Association. She attended the Good Guys program in Kansas and enjoyed the concept of men promoting women. President Willis discussed the benefits of NCWBA as she believes the ability to network and brainstorm with other Women Associations is invaluable for program planning. As such, she recommended SCWLA dedicate funding to allow the entire Executive Committee to attend the NCWBA events and/or encourage participation in conference calls.

President Willis advised the Parent-Ship Track Webinar has been postponed due to Hurricane Michael. She anticipates the first webinar beginning in November 2018.

President Willis further reported that she and Amie Clifford met with Carolyn Matthews, a SCWLA Foundation member on August 31, 2018. Carolyn Matthews initially advised the Foundation had not had a formal meeting in sometime, but she believed the Foundation had sufficient assets to award this year's scholarship. Sometime after the meeting, Carolyn later determined the Foundation was not in a position to fund this year's scholarship. SCWLA will therefore facilitate and fund this year's scholarship.

Given what has transpired over this past year with the Foundation, President Willis recommends SCWLA President serve as ex-officio member of the Foundation's Board of Directors.

IV. Treasurer's Report

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Treasurer Mary Beth Pfister reported the Association is in good financial standing with over \$100,000. She further reported that, although the income for the conference was low, the expenses were running under budget. As such, she has not transferred any funds from the savings to cover the conference.

V. Committee Reports

Reports were submitted in advance by the Governance Committee, Olde English Region, and Midlands Region.

2018 Conference Committee

Stephanie Nye and Johanna Valenzuela made an oral report. They anticipate the conference roster of speakers to be powerful and engaging. Saturday is Gloria Day with the luncheon and Girl's Night with Gloria at 8:00 pm. They also highlighted and encouraged participation in the daily yoga and/or group run as well as the self-defense class scheduled for Saturday.

Membership Committee

Mary LaFave reported on the Women in Law 5K run. They had 80 runners and raised \$3,000 to combat Domestic Violence. It was further announced that Happy Hour at the Thirsty Fellow in Columbia will be held October 24, 2108 at 6:00 p.m. Law students and board members are encouraged to attend.

Governance Committee

President Willis discussed the low participation in completing the Board Commitment Letter and Survey sent in the Spring. It was encouraged for all board members to complete the survey at or prior to January's Board meeting.

President Willis also led the discussion of SCWLA continuing to have an Annual CLE versus annual sponsorship. The goal would be to determine the appropriate amount for annual sponsorships to sustain the Association's programming.

Midland Regions

Karen Huelson requested Board approval of an honorarium for deceased SCWLA member, Sarah Leverette in the amount of \$1,000. A motion was made for a \$500 honorarium in honor of Sarah Leverette. Motion carried.

VI. Old Business

a. Board Commitment form and Questionnaire

The form and survey were discussed during the Governance Committee report. *See above.*

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b. Conference Update/Conference Sponsorships

President Willis again thanked Marguerite Willis for successfully securing large firm sponsors who had not yet committed to sponsoring the Conference.

c. Awards Reception

The Awards Reception will honor Marguerite Willis. It will be held at the Beach Front Pavilion. There will be an open bar with hors d'oeuvres. The Emerging Leader Award and the scholarship recipient will also be recognized.

d. SCWLA Foundation

An update on the SCWLA Foundation was given in the President's Report. *See above.*

e. Region/Keep Basecamp?

This agenda item was not addressed during the meeting.

f. Judge Matthew Perry Award

This agenda item was not addressed during the meeting.

V. New Business

a. S.C. Historical Society

President Willis received an invitation requesting SCWLA pay the S.C. Historical Society to produce the oral history of the Association. After some discussion, there was a consensus that because SCWLA has a video that contains the history of the Association, participation was not beneficial to the Association given the cost associated with producing the video. The matter was therefore tabled.

b. Harassment Training

President Willis presented Harassment Training as a flagship service or benefit to members. No action was taken and the matter was tabled for later discussion.

c. Sarah Leverette Honorarium

The Board approved an honorarium of \$500 during the Midlands Region report. *See above.*

d. FAWL Courtroom Lactation Room Handbook

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A discussion was had on the interest of presenting a plan to establish a lactation room at the court house for lawyers and jurors. A motion was made to move forward with an ad-hoc committee of two members to facilitate the logistics for a lactation room. Motion carried.

e. **Good Guy Program**

President Willis presented on the Good Guys Program in her President's Report. *See above.*

f. **New Mom's Blog**

President Willis presented the idea of a Mom's Blog as a member benefit. The blog would require a member or member to provide content. A discussion was had regarding existing resources that provide information helpful to mothers. No action was taken.

g. **Board Nominations**

Molly Cherry reported the Committee solicited members to serve on the Board and no nominations were received. The suggestion therefore was to have the Nominating Committee submit a slate. There are four (4) board members rolling off and additional spaces for regional representatives. Molly will reach out to Regional Representatives to discuss their interest in serving on the Board. A motion was made to extend the nomination period for two weeks starting Monday, October 22, 2018. Motion carried. The extension will be announced at the General Membership Meeting.

XI. **Adjournment**

All business being concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.