

SCWLA Board Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2019
In Person at the Offices of Nexsen Pruet, Columbia, SC

Board Members attending: *In person:* Allyce Bailey, Austin Bruner, Sheila Willis, Amie Clifford, Mary Beth Pfister, Leah Cromer, Ashley Cuttino, Nancy Olah, Richele Taylor, Ayesha T. Washington, Jasmine Smith, Margie Pizzaro, Emily Boatwright, Jacqueline Edgerton, Karen Huelson; *via phone:* Bhumi Patel, Johanna Valenzuela

Board Members absent, excused: Mary LaFave, Laura Patton

Board Members absent, unexcused: N/A

Others in Attendance: Mikki Lindler, Kristen Nicholas, Barbara Seymour, Molly Cherry

I. Call to Order

President Amie Clifford called the meeting to order at approximately 12:10 p.m. Everyone in attendance introduced herself, and spoke briefly about her role in SCWLA, her years in SCWLA, and provided an overview of her practice.

II. Recognition

President Clifford asked our immediate Past President, Sheila Willis to recognize retiring Board members Molly Cherry, Kristen Nichols, Marguerite Willis, Sima Patel, and Liz Zeck. SCWLA is providing a marble paperweight to each of them to recognize them for their service.

President Clifford also recognized Sheila Willis for her 2018 leadership of the Association and thanked Mary Beth Pfister for coordinating the 2019 sponsorship solicitation. President Clifford presented Sheila Willis with the Association's outgoing-president's gift (an etched crystal obelisk). She also gave Sheila Willis several personal gifts, including an out-of-print book by Gloria Allred, and a sterling silver butterfly pendant.

III. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (December 13, 2018)

President Clifford asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the December 13, 2018 Board meeting. There were no corrections. A motion was made by Ashley Cuttino to approve the December 13, 2018 minutes, seconded by Allyce Bailey, and unanimously approved by the Board.

IV. President's Report

President Clifford talked about Molly Cherry's theme for 2017 being South Carolina Women Lawyers Rock, and indicated that she wanted the 2019 theme to be Women Lawyers Make a Difference, and passed out a proposed logo with some different color schemes.

V. Treasurer's Report

SCWLA Board Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2019
In Person at the Offices of Nexsen Pruet, Columbia, SC

Treasurer Ayesha Washington indicated that she is working on various tax forms with outgoing Treasurer Mary Beth Pfister. Treasurer Washington reported that we have received our initial check for membership dues from the SC Bar, totaling about \$35,000, and Executive Director Mikki Lindler advised that we should be receiving an additional check in February for about \$5,000.00. The Board briefly discussed ideas to drive membership renewals and obtain new members in the first quarter.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Mikki Lindler asked all Board members to please RSVP for Board meetings. She also mentioned that some people are getting accidentally kicked out of campaign monitor because of changes in their law firm's security settings, and to please let her know if this is happening. Mikki indicated that Jay is working on a software proposal.

Following the Executive Director's report, Mary Beth Pfister spoke about the move from event-based sponsorships to annual sponsorships. Letters have been sent to all existing sponsors, and to all Board members who are not current sponsors. Mary Beth Pfister indicated that in many cases, the letter has been sent to the SCWLA member, and not the managing partner or business development director of the firm. Our next phase will be to also solicit businesses and law firms that are not current sponsors. The goal of the annual sponsorship campaign is to provide SCWLA with greater financial stability.

VII. New Business

Because several Board members needed to leave early, President Clifford decided to focus on the two items under New Business on the Agenda on which we needed to vote. SCWLA has received a request from the League of Women Voters (Charleston Area) to support ERA ratification efforts, as well as a request from WREN to support Equal Pay Legislation (there are two different bills before the SC legislature).

President Clifford explained that traditionally SCWLA has not taken a position on any type of legislation, but that the ERA might be a different situation since it is one state short of ratification (although the time period to achieve ratification for the ERA to become an amendment to the U.S. Constitution has expired).

Sheila Willis indicated that one concern is that bills may change over time, and we may support a bill in its current form, only to have it change by amendment over time. Ashley Cuttino suggested that we take a step back and poll our members, and that we need to put a process in place because attaching SCWLA's name to legislation is a very serious step. Sheila Willis mentioned that some of our members may believe that SCWLA has become too liberal, and that we should not assume that just because a bill supports women's rights issues that all women are in favor of it.

SCWLA Board Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2019
In Person at the Offices of Nexsen Pruet, Columbia, SC

The Board had a very engaged discussion of the issue, with many Board members contributing thoughts and ideas. One particular concern to Board members who are in law firms would be the need to run each particular bill that SCWLA wants to support before the law firm's management, since there could be a potential conflict. Several Board members who are in government positions also indicated that they would need to abstain because of similar restrictions, and if SCWLA began to take positions on legislation, might even have to resign their membership. Several Board members offered motions that were discussed, but then withdraw. Margie Pizzaro moved that SCWLA continue our politically neutral stance, but that we disseminate information about pending legislation that we think may be of interest to our members through links to more information. Ashley Cuttino seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

VIII. Election of President-Elect and Treasurer

President Clifford indicated that Mary Beth Pfister would like to resign her position as President-Elect because of a wonderful promotion she has accepted that will greatly increase her workload. Ayesha Washington has agreed to move up from the Treasurer to the President-Elect position, but Nancy Olah indicated that she would prefer to remain as Secretary for 2019 and not move into the Treasurer position. Therefore, the Board needs to approve Ayesha Washington moving up to the position of President-Elect, and elect a Treasurer to replace her. President Clifford indicated that both Ashley Cuttino and Kristen Nichols are interested in running for Treasurer. Each of them gave a brief bio with respect to her practice and her involvement in SCWLA. At that point, Ashley Cuttino left the room, and Kristen Nichols left the call. Following discussion of the two well-qualified candidates, each Board member voted by paper ballot (or email if they were calling in). As Secretary, Nancy Olah received and reviewed the ballots and announced to the Board (once Ashley and Kristen were back) that Ashley Cuttino had been elected Treasurer.

President Clifford also reported that Julie Moose joined a new firm and tendered her resignation from the Board. Under the Bylaws, the open Board position will need to be announced to the membership to be filled.

IX. Committee Reports

The Governance Committee and the Olde English Region submitted reports in advance.

POWER Committee

President Clifford asked several of the Subcommittee chairs of the POWER Committee to report. Margie Pizzaro, chair of the Professional Development Subcommittee discussed the Online Book Club. (At the conclusion of the meeting, President Clifford generously offered several copies of each book that she had purchased online to Board members who want to participate in the Online Book Club.)

Barbara Seymour is chairing the Judicial Subcommittee, which is surveying women judges and women lawyers who have applied for judgeships, with a goal of creating recommendations on the

SCWLA Board Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2019
In Person at the Offices of Nexsen Pruet, Columbia, SC

judicial selection process that SCWLA can forward to the South Carolina Bar (possibly in May, 2019). The Judicial Subcommittee also is updating the handbook created by SCWLA years ago for women lawyers who are interested in running for a judgeship.

President Clifford discussed the possibility of applying for a Bar Foundation grant to provide resources for the expungement clinics that will be a primary focus of the Legal Services Subcommittee. Ayesha Washington commented on the value of this project, since the expungement can be a more complicated process than initially appears, particularly if the person with the expunged record moves to another state. President Clifford commented that she would like training to occur in each of SCWLA's Regions in the first half of 2019 so that we can help our members get the training to provide this type of pro bono legal service to their communities in the second half of the year.

The workforce readiness project of the Community Services Subcommittee, chaired by Allyce Bailey, was briefly discussed.

Carolyn Matthews and Austin Bruner will be co-chairing the Recognitions Subcommittee, which will also deal with collecting and sharing information to our members about open and expiring seats on various government boards and commissions. Richele Taylor commented that this is especially important because Governor McMaster is always looking for qualified women lawyers to fill these roles, and it would be good if our members are aware of these opportunities.

Conference Planning Committee

President Clifford discussed the State House Day on April 2nd, and indicated that there is a possible CLE presentation being planned for the morning with legislators or their staff. The Board agreed that April 1st would be better for the evening Nickelodeon screening, rather than April 2nd.

The Annual Conference will be replaced by a one-day program in each region and an additional one-day program (to be designated as the annual conference and at which we can hold our Annual Meeting as required by the Bylaws) in Columbia, on a date to be determined in October. We need to determine what the members in each Region want and need in terms of CLE or other meaningful presentations. President Clifford also commented that some Regions are doing well and others are struggling. Emily Boatwright commented that it would be helpful to assemble a list of all the various CLE and professional development programs and share it among the regional reps. One of the Board members suggested that Lindsay Joyner has a good one hour CLE on Resilience, and the two one hour ethics CLEs presented by Barbara Seymour were also discussed. Ashley Cuttino mentioned that the Bar Diversity Committee also has people who are willing to speak. Attorney Jeanne Lisowski was recommended as a wonderful presenter on FOIA. Someone else suggested Anne Caywood, at Low Country Legal who does a session on yoga and mindfulness. Jasmine Smith commented that there are several mental health and wellness presenters referenced on the Wellness Website of the SC Bar.

SCWLA Board Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2019
In Person at the Offices of Nexsen Pruet, Columbia, SC

President Clifford enthusiastically updated the Board on the SCOTUS trip for December. Information that was included in the Board materials. President Clifford explained that the Hyatt ultimately give us a better deal than the other hotel under consideration. The cost per person for the SCWLA administrative fee is \$100 (which covers SCWLA's cost for the breakfast and the reception). President Clifford indicated that if family members or friends wish to attend the breakfast and reception, that they also pay the \$100 administrative fee. The additional charges are \$200 for the SCOTUS' fee for application for admission and the \$25 fee to obtain a certificate of good standing from the SC Office of Bar Admissions. Several Board members who have already been admitted to the SCOTUS also spoke and encouraged the Board members who are not yet admitted to consider signing up soon. We have a limit of 50 attorneys who can be admitted, and Sheila Willis explained that this is one of the ways that we often get male SCWLA members. President Willis explained that the deadline is May 15th in order to guarantee being among the 50 attorneys to be admitted. Ayesha Washington commented that even though only one family member can sit with each lawyer to be admitted on the floor, that family members and friends are welcome to view the proceedings from the gallery. Ayesha also mentioned that there is special seating for lawyers who are already admitted to SCOTUS.

Membership Committee

Mary LaFave is stepping down as chair of the Membership Committee, but will still continue on the Board.

Media/Communications Committee

We are looking for a replacement for Sima Patel, former Chair of the Media/Communications Committee.

Olde English Region

Nancy Olah mentioned two CLE programs that the Olde English Region is having in February (Client Capacity 101: Tips for Serving Clients with Limited or Compromised Capacity) and in March (Let the Sunshine In: Drafting FOIA Requests that get Results). Nancy mentioned that CLE credit has been received for the Client Capacity program (1 hour, of which 30 minutes is ethics credit), and that Malissa Church (the attorney who is presenting the CLE) may be willing to travel to other regions to present the program.

Policies and Procedures

Mary Beth Pfister reviewed policies and procedures for reimbursement. Board members were asked to copy Mikki Lindler when they send reimbursement requests to Ashley Cuttino, as our new Treasurer. Mary Beth reminded everyone that policies with respect to sponsorships are on our website, and that sponsoring an event at the regional level should be with an organization or event that falls within SCWLA's mission statement. Mary Beth reminded us that sponsorships also have to be approved by both the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee. Those

SCWLA Board Meeting Minutes
January 31, 2019
In Person at the Offices of Nexsen Pruet, Columbia, SC

Regional Representatives who were present were reminded that while they are encouraged to use the budgeted funds for their Regions, those funds are not to be spent frivolously. For example, Regions should not have an expensive dinner at the end of the year for a few members just to use up the remaining funds in their budgets. Any funds that have not been used by a Region will be returned to the general budget, just like other unspent funds on specific line items in the budget.

X. Old Business

All Old Business was addressed during Committee Reports.

XII. Next Meeting

The next meeting date will be an in person meeting in Columbia at the offices of Nexsen Pruet on March 7, 2019 from noon to 2 pm.

XIII. Adjournment

All business being concluded, Mary Beth Pfister moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Sheila Willis, and approved by acclamation. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Olah
Secretary