

**SCWLA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 17, 2017**

Members present: Sheila Bias, Emily Boatwright, Ariail Kirk, Molly Cherry, Amie Clifford, Karen Huelson, Kelly Jolley, Sarah Leverette, Bhumi Patel (for portion of meeting, by phone), Sima Patel, Mary Beth Pfister, Tara Shurling (by phone), Marguerite Willis (for portion of meeting)

Members absent, excused: Stephanie Burton, Lisa Claxton, Ashley Cuttino, Nancy Olah, Laura Paton, Suzanne White, Ayesha Washington, Amanda Williams, Elizabeth Zeck

Members absent, unexcused: Lynsey Kmetz, Kristen Nichols

Also attending: Pee Dee Regional Representative Susan Firimonte, Jennifer Howe, Executive Director Mikki Lindler

**I. Call to Order**

Molly Cherry called the meeting to order at 12:11pm.

**II. President's Report**

Molly reported she has received very positive feedback about the activities of the Community Service Committee and the recent regional activities. She showed t-shirts she purchased with the logo “#scwomenlawyersrock,” which members attending the meeting really liked. Many suggested more be ordered for giveaways and/or sale.

**III. Secretary's Report/Minutes**

Mary Beth Pfister shared the minutes from the January 27, 2017 meeting and solicited edits and corrections. No vote was taken to approve the minutes, as there was not a quorum present. Amie Clifford suggested that the minutes begin reflecting absences that are excused and not and participation by phone because of the recent bylaws changes. It was agreed we should do this. Mary Beth reported she is working on an electronic board orientation packet to be given to all board members.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Amie Clifford shared the treasurer's report and said that the organization is on track with its budget versus actual spending year to date. Amie said she will start sharing a budget versus actual report at the next meeting.

**V. SCWLA Foundation**

Liz Zeck was not present and there was no report submitted.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

**Media/Communications** –Sima Patel said she has not contacted those who volunteered to assist with this committee but that she will next week. She recommended that SCWLA upgrade its Hootsuite account for sharing social media posts instead of paying Jay \$200/month to handle posts. She said with this account, she can post to one place and schedule posts to appear in Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. She explained this will cost less per month than using Jay to post content. All agreed this was a good idea and said Sima should proceed with this plan. Sima said her goal is 3 posts per week on Facebook and 1 post per week on Instagram and that she will post in one of the prime times for views, 3-4pm. She asked all committees and regions to share pictures and information on their events for posting. Sima also stressed that no matter how good our content or how frequent our posts, we need members to like and share our posts in order to increase our social media presence.

**2017 Conference/Awards Reception** –Jennifer Howe gave an update on conference planning for the 2017 conference in Greenville at the Hyatt on September 29<sup>th</sup>, with the awards reception to be held September 28<sup>th</sup>. Several key speakers have been confirmed, including one from DC and one from Santa Barbara, CA. She is inviting a number of speakers from larger firms, which should help with sponsorships. Jennifer has identified a contact who will handle marketing and registration for the event for \$4000 plus printing and postage, as compared with the SC Bar, which charges \$23,000. Discussion was held regarding whether to print brochures or use electronic ones only and regarding whether it is possible to purchase a mailing list from the SC Bar or to hire someone to type address labels from the bar address book. Jennifer will work with Mikki to explore our options with the SC Bar and decide the best course of action.

**New Business (taken out of order)** – Marguerite Willis reported that SCWLA has won the award for Member Program of the Year from the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations for its 2016 Resilience Initiative. The award will be presented at the conference this summer.

**Bissell Award** – Sheila Bias submitted a written report.

**Toal Award** – no report

**Bylaws** – no committee report; Molly said expect to vote on first set of bylaws changes at next meeting

**Community Outreach** –Allyce Bailey submitted a written report.

**Membership Committee** – no report

**Professional Development** – no report

**Long Range Planning** –Mary Beth submitted a written report and said she and Sheila are working to select a facilitator to lead the next strategic planning session and to schedule that for the fall. She indicated two action items needed before this session are (1) voting on the proposed bylaws amendments and (2) progress on establishing regional chapters for those regions who wish to do that for 2018.

**Regional Activity** – Chair Kelly Jolley said she held a call with the regions and introduced the base camp tool to the regions for their use. Another call is scheduled for April 12, with the goal of scheduling 2017 events, sending dates to Mikki to include on the calendar and soliciting additional volunteers.

**Military Subcommittee of Membership Committee** – Kathy Smith submitted a written report and asked the Board to approve sending a comment letter to the SC Supreme Court Commission on CLE and Specialization in favor if its proposal to increase the number of distance learning hours that a Bar member can earn per reporting year from 6 to 8 hours. No vote could be taken as there was not a quorum.

**Public Service Committee** –Laura Paton submitted a written report. She requested the Board approve additions to the website to track pertinent legislation. No vote could be taken as there was not a quorum.

## **VII. Regions Activity**

Written reports were submitted by Karen Huelson for the Midlands, Nancy Olah for Old English, and Susan Firimonte for Pee Dee.

## **VIII. Old Business**

Sheila shared a sample of the format she proposes to use for the monthly email to members. This will begin in April and will have a segment from the Professional

Development Committee, a member spotlight from the Membership Committee and information on upcoming events.

**IX. New Business**

Molly Cherry reminded the Board of the need to attend meetings for purposes of establishing a quorum and to provide explanations when unable to attend for purposes of tracking excused absences. She said we will hold a brief conference call in the next 2 weeks to vote on those items we could not vote on at the meeting.

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:22pm. The next Board meeting is May 12<sup>th</sup> at noon.