

**SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, June 19, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association met at Nexsen Pruet Law Firm in Columbia, South Carolina on Friday, June 19, 2015, at 1:00 p.m.

Board members present at the meeting were: President, Marguerite Willis; President-Elect Kelly Jolley; Secretary, Molly Cherry; Immediate Past President Tara Shurling; Sheila Bias; Jennie Cerrati Karen Huelson, Sarah Leverette; Jennifer Rubin; Cynthia Ouzts; Mary Beth Pfister; and Elizabeth Zeck.

Board Members participating by phone were: Treasurer Julie Moose; Jennifer Ashburn; Meliah Jefferson; Kristen Nichols; and Flo Vinson.

Board Members absent: Lisa Claxton; Aimee Clifford; Ruth Cupp; Ashley Cuttino; Jennifer Howe; Alison Lee; Carmen Mullen; Stephanie Nye; Laura Paton; Abigail Walsh; and Amanda Williams.

Others present: Allyce Bailey and Melinda (“Mikki”) Lindler.

**I. Call to Order.** President Willis called the meeting to order, with a quorum of board members present. She gave a brief update on board member Jennifer Howe and her newborn.

**II. Minutes.** The Minutes of the April 10, 2015 Board Meeting were discussed.

**ACTION TAKEN:** A motion was unanimously approved to accept the April 10, 2015 Minutes as submitted.

**III. Treasurer’s Report.** Treasurer Julie Moose referred to the financial reports submitted in advance of the meeting and confirmed SCWLA’s finances are in good order.

**IV. Committee Reports/ Regional Activity Liaison/Regional Reports.**

Midlands Regional Report and Regional Update. Karen Huelson submitted a written report and highlighted that roughly halfway through 2015, many of the regions have already met the goal announced by our President and the Executive Committee for at least four (4) hours of CLE programming each year. The Old English Region and Sea Islands Region also submitted written reports.

Professional Development/Other CLEs Committee. Amie Clifford submitted a written summary prior to the meeting, encouraging submission of potential speakers and topics. She is working on the details for the annual U.S. Supreme Court admissions trip in December.

Membership. Mary Beth Pfister submitted a Membership Committee report. She is spearheading efforts on events for members. She is also working to get a better sense of membership profiles to target events for members. There are a number of non-board member committee members. She suggested identifying volunteers and committee members to be future board members and officers.

President Willis talked about the success of several membership initiatives, including the Saving Your Soles event in Columbia. Of note, the turnout for the event was successful and appeared to reach members who do not necessarily attend the luncheon meetings. The skeet shooting event hosted by the Department of Natural Resources on June 5<sup>th</sup> was also successful, with a great presentation by member Shannon Bobertz on a variety of health, wellness and stress management topics, followed by skeet shooting. There were about 25 participants. Cynthia Ouzts submitted a written report to the Board on the event.

Annual Conference. Sheila Bias is chairing the Convention Committee and provided an update on the progress. The advertisement for the convention has been prepared and will be used in advertising, including by the SC Bar. The convention agenda is almost completed. There will be a number of booths for mentoring, which Rebecca Roser will head, financial planning, and photographs, as well as food trucks for lunch. Attendees will get a copy of the book authored by Debbie Epstein Henry, the keynote speaker. The convention cost will be \$195 for SCWLA members to attend, and \$295 for non-members (based upon 150 paying participants). Every law student from any SC law school can attend for free.

Tina Candari will lead a yoga session/fitness event, as well, on the lawn. As a result, the registration time for the convention will be a little later to accommodate participation in the yoga session.

Sheila is still in the process of soliciting sponsorships. Sponsorship opportunities will be for the conference and the awards ceremony.

ACTION TAKEN: Julie Moose moved to have SCWLA Foundation as the beneficiary of the silent auction. A discussion ensued. Kelly Jolley seconded the Motion. The Motion unanimously passed.

Bissell Award. President-Elect Kelly Jolley reported on the Bissell Award. Notice to the membership for applications will go out the week of June 25, 2014. President-elect Jolley will be the chair of the selection committee, with other members who volunteer to serve. The following members volunteered at the meeting: Sheila Bias; Jennifer Rubin and Tara Shurling. The reception will be at the Mezzanine at the SC State Museum on Thursday, October 22, 2015. The evening will be an awards night, with the Bissell award as the main event.

SCWLA Foundation. Liz Zeck updated the Board on the Foundation's 2015 scholarships. There are 7 applicants for scholarships: 5 from USC School of Law; and 2 from the Charleston School of Law. Announcement of the recipients will be made soon before graduation, with a formal announcement to follow in the fall. The Foundation will publicize Pam Robinson as the Dicus award recipient from 2014 and will call for submissions for this year.

Mentoring Committee. The mentoring committee submitted a written report.

## **V. New Business**

Lobbying. President Willis asked President-elect Kelly Jolley to address lobbying efforts on equal pay issues for women. Because SCWLA is an entity under 501(c)(4) of the tax code, we are permitted to lobby. The SCWLA Foundation, as a 501(c)(3) entity, cannot lobby.. President Willis plans to move to create a public policy/relations committee that would not get involved in politics. We can hear from female political candidates, but no intention to lobby in that regard.

Toal Award. Immediate Past President Tara Shurling provided a picture of the sculpture for the Toal award. President Willis asked her to prepare a recommendation in writing to circulate to the Board two weeks before the meeting in August for a vote in reference to how and when the Toal Award will be presented.

Board Elections. Cindy Ouzts is on the nominating committee and updated the Board election process, including the current provisions in the by-laws and suggestions for improving the process of board elections to increase the diversity in the regions being represented on the board. She submitted a written report and recommendation of reviewing the board election process.

**VI. President's Report.** President Willis reported on Angel Warren's unemployment filing and outcome. Sheila Bias is going to provide an update to the Board on the difference/issues between employees and independent contractors.

President Willis prepared a letter to go out to members in light of the tragic events in Charleston at Emanuel AME Church on Wednesday, June 17, 2015.

## **VII. Executive Session**

President Willis called for executive session. Any non-members in attendance left the meeting. At the conclusion of discussion, the meeting was resumed.

## **VIII. Other Business**

President Willis read a letter of resignation as Executive Director from Allyce Bailey, with her last day being Wednesday July 1, 2015, which the board accepted. President Willis asked Allyce to stay involved with SCWLA on one of the committees.

The Board offered the position of Executive Director to Mikki Lindler.

**IX. Next Board Meeting.** The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 p.m. at Nexsen Pruet in Columbia.

**VII. Adjourn.** A motion was approved by those present to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.