

**SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, August 21, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association met at Nexsen Pruet Law Firm in Charleston, South Carolina on Friday, August 21, 2015, at 1:00 p.m.

Board members present at the meeting were: President, Marguerite Willis; President-Elect, Kelly Jolley; Treasurer, Julie Moose; Secretary, Molly Cherry; Immediate Past President, Tara Shurling; Sheila Bias; Aimee Clifford; Jennifer Howe; Karen Huelson; Meliah Jefferson; Sarah Leverette; Hannah Metcalf; Kristen Nichols; Cynthia Ouzts; Laura Paton; Mary Beth Pfister; Jennifer Rubin; Ayesha Washington; Amanda Williams; and Elizabeth Zeck.

Board Members participating by phone were Jennie Cerrati; Carmen Mullen and Flo Vinson.

Board Members absent: Lisa Claxton; Ruth Cupp; Ashley Cuttino; Alison Lee; Stephanie Nye; and Abigail Walsh.

Others present: Melinda (“Mikki”) Lindler.

**I. Call to Order.** President Willis called the meeting to order, with a quorum of board members present.

**II. Minutes.** The Minutes of the June 19, 2015 Board Meeting were discussed.

**ACTION TAKEN:** A motion was unanimously approved to accept the June 19, 2015 Minutes with a few minor changes, as discussed.

**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. SCWLA is gearing up for the conference and hopes to have more sponsors for it. Julie has included a list of sponsors in her report but it is not a complete list at this time. We are \$6,000 ahead on membership from where we budgeted to be. We are low on sustainer memberships.

**IV. Committee Oral Reports.**

**Mentoring.** Sheila Bias gave an update on the Midlands panel presentation this week, which went over well.

**Long Range Planning:** Kelly Jolley updated the board on long range planning details. The long range planning committee is a policy committee. By way of background, the long range planning had been discussed at length initially at the board retreat. The goals of the committee are to increase membership, improve communication and provide value to members. The idea is to focus on being a state-wide organization. At today’s meeting, the board is going to discuss the ideas generally as set forth in the written report. No vote will be taken today to give board members time to consider the report. A vote will be taken at the next meeting. If approved, the

changes will result in an amendment to the by-laws and will be implemented by the beginning of next year. Of note, the biggest proposed change will be for the regions. The committee is recommending that regions move to local boards or committees so that one person is not doing all of the work. Right now, Sea Island is the pilot region. Jennie Cerrati spoke in favor of the change, indicating the positive results they have seen. Another goal of the committee is to make sure SCWLA is an engine for professional development of its members. To that end, term limits are also being proposed, to go into effect next year so that current board members are not impacted this year.

Discussion ensued regarding the plans. Given the proposed changes, President Willis may call a special meeting dedicated to the long range plans.

By-laws. Ayesha Washington gave an update from the by-laws committee. There are six areas the by-laws committee suggests be modified, the most immediate of which is voting to include electronic voting. Ayesha walked through the areas of the by-laws impacted to allow for electronic voting. A discussion ensued, with some slight wording changes proposed.

ACTION TAKEN: Proposed change comes from committee and, thus, does not require a motion. President Willis called for a vote to approve the proposed changes, with the slight wording modifications proposed during discussion. Proposed changes were unanimously approved.

Annual Conference. Sheila Bias is chairing the Convention Committee and provided an update on the progress. There will be shuttle service to address any parking challenges with the conference location at the USC School of Law. There will be an official photographer for the conference.

Other CLEs. Aimee Clifford gave an update on the progress with creating a bank of CLE material and presentations to be made available to regions.

## **V. Old Business**

Toal Award. Immediate Past President Tara Shurling provided an update on the Toal award and proposed additional language to be included in the description of the award. She will send out a notice with a deadline for nominations, and the committee will narrow the nominations down to three. The short-list will be circulated to the full board for voting.

ACTION TAKEN: Immediate Past President moved to add language to be included in the description of the Toal award. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**VI. New Business.** President Willis reported on the opportunity to attend a panel presentation with the new ABA president Brown on diversity and implicit bias on September 15, 2015, in Columbia, SC. President Willis is on the panel, as well. SCWLA is partnering with the YLD of the SC Bar with the presentation. Any board member interested in attending must sign up by August 26, 2015. SCWLA only has 100 tickets which will be opened up to SCWLA members.

**VII. Other Business and Member News**

Aimee Clifford gave an update on the December 12-14, 2015 trip to Washington, DC for swearing-in before the U.S. Supreme Court. Late registration deadline is August 31, 2015.

**VIII. Next Board Meeting.** The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at Nexsen Pruet in Columbia.

**IX. Adjourn.** A motion was approved by those present to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.