

**SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, January 23, 2016**

The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association met at Nexsen Pruet Law Firm in Charleston, South Carolina on Saturday, January 23, 2016, at 12:00 p.m.

Board members present at the meeting were: President-Elect, Kelly Jolley; Treasurer Julie Moose; Secretary Molly Cherry; Sheila Bias; Jennie Cerrati; Lynsey Kmetz; Carmen Mullen; Laura Paton; Jennifer Ruben, Amanda Williams and Flo Vinson.

Board Members participating by phone were President Marguerite Willis; Lisa Claxton, Amie Clifford; Mary Beth Pfister; Cindy Ouzts; Jennifer Howe; Immediate Past President Tara Dawn Shurling; and Hannah Metcalf.

Board Members absent: Jennifer Ashburn; Ashley Cuttino; Karen Huelson; Meliah Jefferson; Alison Lee; Sarah Leverette; Kristen Nichols; Stephanie Nye; Abigail Walsh and Ayesha Washington.

Others present: Melinda (“Mikki”) Lindler; Lonnesse Williams; and Mary Platts.

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

ACTION TAKEN: The slate of officers from the nominating committee was submitted for vote. A vote was taken, and the slate approved unanimously. The new officers are: President Kelly Jolley; President-Elect Julie Moose; Treasurer Molly Cherry and Secretary Sheila Bias. Marguerite Willis is the Immediate Past President.

President Jolley took over the meeting, welcoming two regional representatives in attendance: Lonnesse Williams and Mary Platts. She thanked out-president Willis and out-going board members for their service and recognized this year’s board.

ACTION TAKEN: A motion was made and unanimously approved to elect Sima Patel as a new board member for 2016.

**II. Minutes.** The Minutes of the December 11, 2015 Board Meeting were discussed.

ACTION TAKEN: A motion was unanimously approved to accept the December 11, 2015 Minutes, with the correction of the spelling of Amie Clifford’s name.

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

President Jolley went over the budget for this year, explaining differences in this year's budget and reasons for certain increases and decreases in revenues and expenses. The board discussed a number of items in the proposed budget, including a detailed discussion over regional expenses. President Jolley also highlighted her interest in creating a new award for emerging leaders, specifically sending a member to a leadership conference such as SC Leadership.

ACTION TAKEN: A motion was made to approve the proposed 2016 budget with the changes to increase funds for the two women-in-law organizations at the two law schools in the state by \$500 each for a total of \$2000 each. A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

#### **IV. Committees.**

President Jolley is going to circulate a sign-up sheet for committees to seek members and chairs.

Annual Conference. Sheila Bias reported that the annual conference has been rescheduled for Friday, March 18, 2016, at the SC Bar conference center. Registration fee will be \$150 for SCWLA members and \$200 for non-members. Four hours of CLE credit will be offered. We need about 87 members registered to break even financially. The theme is "Taking Care of Business," and Sheila described each of the presentations that will be given.

Foundation. Julie reported that the 2015 scholarship winners will be presented at the awards ceremony scheduled for March 17, 2016. The 2016 scholarship winners will be announced at the fall awards ceremony. Julie is soliciting ideas for fund-raising for the foundation.

Membership. Mary Beth reported that the membership survey was circulated. Once the results have been compiled, they will be circulated to the membership.

Professional Development/Mentoring. Sheila referred to the written report submitted in advance of the meeting.

By-laws. There are a number of issues pending with the by-laws. The by-laws committee will continue to work through the issues and the proposed revised by-laws will be submitted in March for a vote.

Long-range planning. President Jolley discussed a number of long-range planning ideas and the reasons behind changes being proposed by the committee. She went over the committee report and request for action from August 19, 2015, which request was tabled in August.

A discussion ensued over the proposed actions submitted by the committee.

ACTION TAKEN: Amie Clifford made a motion to amend the request for action from the committee, per her proposed written changes emailed today, including to tie regional representation on the board to the number of regional members. Amie withdrew her proposal with regard to the regional representation, which would be to strike "g" from the committee's proposal, and allows for excused absences that would not count against one of the three absences

that would exclude someone from the board. A vote was taken, with three voting in favor. Amendment did not carry.

A motion was made to approve the proposal from the committee. A motion was made for a roll call vote, and approved. The roll call vote is as follows:

Julie Moose; Molly Cherry; Marguerite Willis; Jennie Cerrati; Lisa Claxton; Jennifer Howe; Carmen Mullen; Mary Beth Pfister; Amanda Williams; Kelly Jolley voted in favor.

Amie Clifford; Sheila Bias; Hannah Metcalf; Laura Paton; Tara Dawn Shurling; Lynsey Kmetz voted in opposition.

The proposal was approved by the quorum present and voting. The proposal will now go to the by-laws committee for discussion at the next meeting in March. The by-laws committee will endeavor to get the proposed changes to the board for consideration by March 1.

Regional Activity/Regional Reports. Jennie Cerrati has agreed to head up the coordination of the regional efforts.

#### **V. Member News**

Out-going board member Jennifer Rubin expressed her enjoyment serving on the board and is leading by example by rotating off the board. Mary Platts, the regional representative for the Charleston area, will be on maternity leave in March and has made arrangements for another point person while she is out. Out-going board member Flo Vinson expressed her enjoyment, as well, and shared that she will be a Social Security Judge in Fayetteville, North Carolina, moving in February.

**VIII. Next Board Meeting.** The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2016, at Richardson Plowden's office in Columbia at 4 p.m. so that we can go to the awards reception afterward.

**IX. Adjourn.** A motion was approved by those present to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned.