

SCWLA Board Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2018

Board Members attending: *In-person:* Sheila Willis, Amie Clifford, Richele Taylor, Mary LaFave, and Mary Beth Pfister; *via phone:* Bhumi Patel, Laura Paton, Marguerite Willis, Ashley Parr, Ashley Cuttino, Kristen Nichols, and Sima Patel.

Board Members absent, excused: Ayesha Washington.

Board Members absent, unexcused: Allyce Bailey, Molly Cherry, Margie Pizarro, Julie Moose, Nancy Olah, and Liz Zeck.

Others in Attendance: Johanna Valenzuela (via phone) and Mikki Lindkler.

I. Call to Order

President Willis called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

II. Recognition

President Willis recognized SCWLA members for special efforts in regard to Association matters, with special recognition of Stephanie Nye and Johanna Valenzuela for all of their hard work on the Conference.

III. President's Report

President Willis attended the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations' 2018 Women's Bar Leadership Summit in Chicago on Thursday and Friday, August 2 and 3. She reported on some of the sessions, including the Good Guys program. While the Good Guys program actually conducted at the Summit was not good, she stated that the concept is. The program is designed to engage men in the advancement of women lawyers in the workplace and profession by recognizing those who do so, conducting programs for men using the men who work to advance women and diverse lawyers, educating men on the value of diversifying firms and companies at the highest levels of management and ownership (value in terms of money), and provide training on implicit bias. She suggested that the program was one that SCWLA might want to replicate in some form. She said that programs from other Associations were recognized, including one that she would discuss later under new business.

IV. Approval of Past Minutes

In Secretary Ayesha Washington's absence, President-Elect Amie Clifford presented the minutes from the June 21, 2018, meeting for any corrections and approval. There being no corrections, it was moved and seconded that they be approved. The motion carried.

V. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mary Beth Pfister called for any questions regarding the Budget versus Actual and Balance Sheet Comparison previously distributed. No questions were raised.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Mikki Lindler submitted a written report of her activities since the last Board meeting, including working with the Midlands Region on its August luncheon; assisting with preparations for the Conference; updating of application/nomination forms for the Dicus and scholarship awards; upkeep of Quickbook records, receipt of PayPal payments, bank deposits, and reconciling accounts; assisting with newsletters; membership correspondence; updating membership records; and preparing and distributing materials for the August Board meeting.

VII. Committee Reports

a. POWER Committee Request

Co-Chair Laura Paton asked for approval to send an eblast calling for volunteers to help with writing the judicial handbook (guidance on how to run for judge). It was decided that an eblast could be sent without Board action. It was suggested that a call for volunteers be included in the newsletter; the Committee is to send language to Jasmine Smith and Mikki Lindler.

Co-Chair Allyce Bailey reported on the Committee's successful participation in "Snackin' Back," a food drive campaign to collect snacks and easy to prepare quick meals to combat the childhood hunger crisis. The Committee collected food donations, which were delivered to Harvest Hope for use in preparing snack backpacks for distribution to children at local schools.

b. Military Committee Report

In a written report, Chair Kathy Smith stated that the Military Committee had met to plan its participation in a Lawyers 4 Vets program at the Dorn VA Hospital on October 18. A call for volunteers will be going out.

c. Long Range Planning Report

The Committee has not met since April, but efforts are being made to identify and consult with potential partners for the in-depth study on the status of South Carolina women lawyers (Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan).

d. Membership Committee Report

A written report was submitted by the Committee. The Committee has three law student projects planned for the year: cosponsoring the USC Women in Law's Run 5K that will occur on September 30; partnering with the USC Women in Law to host a happy hour at Thirsty Fellow on October 25; and conducting a Working Girl panel at either the Charleston School of Law and/or the U.S.C. School of Law (pizza lunch with women lawyers in four different practice settings – judge, military, public service, and private practice). Committee Chair Mary LaFave encouraged all Board members to attend the Run 5K and the Happy Hour.

The Committee is also tasked with evaluating SCWLA's fee structure, and the Chair requested a meeting with President Willis and Treasurer to discuss goals, organizational needs, and potential impact of dues changes. The Committee believes that a dramatic reworking of the fee structure could have an adverse impact on membership, but that gradual implementation of changes may be more palatable to the membership. The Committee is checking with the South Carolina Bar to determine the number of Bar members who are women.

e. Midlands Regional Report

Midlands Region Representative Karen Huelson submitted a written report. At its August luncheon, the Region had a "2018 United States Supreme Court Update" by John S. Nichols (one hour CLE). Future lunch CLEs will provide a legislative update and address evidentiary issues.

f. Olde English regional Report

Olde English Region Representative Nancy Olah submitted a written report. The Region has a successful luncheon CLE on August 15, during which Barbara Seymour spoke on ethics ("2017 Ethics and Discipline Update"). Eighteen women lawyers attended, including one new member and several non-members who took membership applications home with them. Also present was Cari Morrell, with Carolina Shred, who expressed interest in serving as a possible sponsor of the conference. The next meeting of the Region will be in early October.

Ashley Cuttino, Chair of the Regional Activity Committee, reported that the Region Representatives will be sending in their fall schedules.

VIII. Old Business

a. Board Commitment form and Questionnaire

Only seven Board Members have completed the Commitment form and questionnaire. Ms. Pfister stated that she had been unable to access them. The form and questionnaire will be sent again, and all Board Members were asked to complete.

b. Website Active Member Listing/Inactive Listing

As was previously discussed, inactive members (those who once were dues-paying members, but are no longer) have been kept in the membership directory on the website and their listings are similar in appearance to those of dues-paying members. After discussion, Ms. LaFave moved to archive the inactive members so that they do not appear on the website, but their information is retained. The motion was seconded and approved.

c. Conference Update/Conference Sponsorships

A report was made on the Conference by Committee Co-Chair Johanna Valenzuela. Currently, \$20,000 in sponsorships and \$5,500 in exhibitor fees have been secured. There are currently 32 registrants, including 8 complimentary registrations for sponsors.

Board Members were previously assigned to follow up on sponsorship request letters sent to law firms and corporate entities. Members were reminded to make contact with their assigned firm or entity and to reach out to additional potential sponsors to ensure that sufficient sponsorship funding was obtained to ensure the success of the Conference.

The database of Bar members has been created. Due to “term of use” issues with Campaign Monitor, SCWLA is unable to use it to send mass emails. The Board voted to divide up the list of Bar Members and email them. Ms. Clifford and Ms. Lindler will be creating email lists for distribution to each Board Member next week with some suggested language. Each Board Members will then be responsible for sending emails to their assigned list of lawyers encouraging them to register for the Conference. September 7 is the deadline for sending out all emails.

Sima Patel, Chair of the Media/Communications Committee, will be covering different aspects of the Conference on social media.

Registration will include the lunch program with Gloria Allred, but tickets for just the lunch will also be sold at \$75 each.

There is space for up to 22 exhibitors, and Ms. Lindler is reaching out to additional potential exhibitors.

d. SCWLA Foundation

No response to SCWLA’s letter setting forth its concerns and questions about the SCWLA Foundation has been received from the Foundation. Two members of the Foundation’s Board, Chris Catoe and Carolyn Matthews, have been identified. President Willis and Ms. Clifford met with Ms. Matthews, who reported that she had also been unsuccessful in her attempts to reach the President of the Foundation.

Ms. Matthews was unable to answer the Association's question, and said that the Foundation Board Members had only met to determine scholarship winners. She offered to continue to reach out to the Foundation's President.

A discussion ensued about how to handle the scholarships normally given out by the Foundation at the Awards Reception conducted by the Association. Ms. Lindler had reached out to the Foundation President about this year's scholarships, but had not received a response. A motion was made and seconded that SCWLA award the scholarships this year. The applications will be sent out as soon as possible. A Committee was created to select the scholarship recipients; President Willis, Ms. Clifford, Ms. Pfister, Richele Taylor, and Ms. LaFave volunteered to serve on the Committee.

e. Regions/Keep Basecamp?

A discussion was held about whether SCWLA should continue to subscribe to Basecamp. The Regional Representatives will be asked for their input.

f. Judge Matthew Perry Award

Ms. Taylor volunteered to compile a list of existing awards named after Judge Perry.

g. Membership Retention Ideas from NCWBA call

Due to time, the discussion of membership retention ideas was tabled until a later date.

IX. New Business

a. FAWL Courtroom Lactation Room Handbook

President Willis discussed the Courtroom Lactation Room project of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, a project recognized with an award at the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations' 2018 Women's Bar Leadership Summit in Chicago. The project focused on having lactation rooms in each courthouse so that lawyers, witnesses, jurors, and others who need to use a breast pump will have a private place to do so. There was a discussion of the issues and how such a project would be implemented. Ms. Paton suggested publishing a call for volunteers to study the project to see if there is any interest in moving forward on the project.

b. Good Guys Program

There was discussion of the Good Guys program mentioned by President Willis in her report. Those present through the idea was one that should be studied further.

c. New Moms Blog/Judge Wofford-Kanwat

A SCWLA member and judge, Ms. Wofford-Kanwat, has suggested that SCWLA host a new moms' blog so that women lawyers will be able to share and discuss issues. There was a discussion that the role of SCWLA would be to curate information. After further discussion, the consensus was that such blogs were already available.

d. Constance Anastopoulo/Table Diamond (\$1000) Level

Constance Anastopoulo, a candidate in the general election for Attorney General, has inquired about serving as a sponsor and exhibitor at the Conference. There was a discussion about political candidates serving as such and a consensus that that did not pose a problem provided the participation did not appear to be an endorsement. A motion was made, and seconded, that, if a candidate(s) for public office is included in a promotion for or participates in a Conference in any way, SCWLA should include a statement that it is not taking a position for or against anyone's candidacy and does not endorse political candidates. The motion was approved.

X. Next Meetings

The next Board meetings will be held on October 18 (in Hilton Head) and December 13 (in Columbia).

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.