

**SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Saturday, January 24, 2015**

The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association met at the Richardson Plowden Law Firm in Columbia, South Carolina on Saturday, January 24, 2015. Board members present at the meeting were: President, Tara Shurling; President-Elect Marguerite Willis; Secretary, Julie Moose; Immediate Past-President, Cynthia Hall Ouzts; Jennifer Ashburn, Sheila Bias, Amie Clifford, Ashley Cuttino, Karen Huelson, Meliah Bowers Jefferson, Lynsey Kmetz, Sarah Leverette, Mary Beth Pfister, Jennifer Rubin, Amanda Williams, and Liz Zeck.

Board Members participating by phone were: Treasurer, Kelly Jolley; Jennifer Howle, Hannah Metcalfe, Kristen Nichols (new board member), Laura Paton, and Ayesha Washington.

Others participating: Allyce Bailey.

- I. President Shurling called the meeting to order. President Shurling confirmed that a quorum is present.
- II. **President's Report.** President Shurling provided a report on membership dues and confirmed that it is too early to confirm the effect of the dues increase.
- III. **Vote for Officers.** President Shurling confirmed the officer slate presented by the Nominating Committee, the members of the Nominating Committee, the Petition by Amie Clifford to serve as secretary, and the voting procedure. Past-President, Cynthia Hall Ouzts provided information regarding the Nominating Committee's slate. Allyce Bailey read the information submitted by both candidates relevant to their eligibility to serve.

ACTION TAKEN: A motion approving the Nominating Committee's slate for the positions for which no petitions were received was approved: Marguerite Willis will serve as President, Kelly Jolley will serve as President-Elect, Julie Moose will serve as Treasurer, and Tara Shurling will serve as Immediate Past-President.

ACTION TAKEN: Following a secret ballot election, Molly Cherry was elected Secretary.

- IV. **Recognition of Incoming President.** President Shurling welcomed the new president Marguerite Willis.
- V. **Recognition of Outgoing President and Gift Presentation.** President Willis thanked Past-President Shurling for her contributions to SCWLA and presented her with gifts.
- VI. **Recognition of Past Presidents, Outgoing Board Members, and Welcome to New Board Members.** President Willis welcomed new board members Jennie Cerrati and Kristen Nichols and thanked retiring board members and Past-President Ouzts for their many years of service.

**VII. Minutes.** The Minutes of the November 14, 2014 Board Meeting were discussed.

ACTION TAKEN: A motion was approved to accept the Minutes as submitted.

**VIII. Treasurer's Report.** President Willis reported on the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statement. President-Elect Jolly reported that total assets should be \$99,000 because we received the first check for dues in the amount of \$33,000. President Willis reported on the proposed 2015 Budget, which cannot be finalized until revenue from dues is confirmed in March. There are no anticipated major expenditures before the next Board meeting, and the 2015 Budget will be presented to the Board for approval at the April meeting. Past-President Ouzts proposed changing SCWLA's fiscal year, which will be evaluated by the Bylaws Committee.

**IX. SCWLA Foundation.** Liz Zeck updated the Board on the Foundation's 2015 scholarships. The Foundation will be requesting funds for 2015, and a budget request will be submitted.

**X. Committees.**

a. **Awards/Nominations.** President Willis reported that Past-President Shurling will be completing the creation of the physical Toal Award. President Willis proposed the creation of an additional award known as the Friend of SCWLA award to recognize special efforts to assist SCWLA, with the award to be awarded as needed as opposed to annually. The details of the award will be addressed at a later meeting.

ACTION TAKEN: A motion was approved creating a new nonmonetary award known as "Friend of SCWLA."

b. **Membership.** President Willis reported that one focus in 2015 will be to increase SCWLA's relevance to its members and increase membership. Allyce Bailey will be developing a current member database, including members who sign up through the Bar and those who sign up directly with SCWLA, and we will track attrition rates and focus on keeping members engaged.

c. **Professional Development and Mentoring Subcommittee.** Amie Clifford reported on plans for statewide CLEs and the plan to push out programs to the regions. Sheila Bias reported on plans for the Mentoring Subcommittee's conversation programs.

d. **Bylaws.** President Willis reported that the Bylaws need to be amended, and Ayesha Washington is chairing the Bylaws Committee.

e. **Community Outreach.** Amie Clifford confirmed that our silent auction was a success and raised \$10,281 for breast cancer research at MUSC.

- f. **Media/Communications.** President Willis reported on the 2015 focus on social media and the plan to communicate more information and pictures on social media.
- g. **Regional Activity Liaison/Regional Reports.** Karen Huelson reported on plans to energize the regions and encourage members to participate in regional events. President Willis reported that Allyce Baily will attend at least one event in each region during 2015. Each region will have a budget for events, and regional representatives will be included in planning and Board meetings.
- h. **Annual Conference Planning.** President Willis reported that Sheila Bias will be chairing the Convention Committee, and the Convention will be held during one of the last two weekends in October at the USC Law School in Columbia. The theme is “Back to the Future,” and there will be a one day format.

**XI. New Business.**

- a. **CLE Events.** President Willis reported on stress management CLEs to be scheduled at the DNR in two locations. Past-President Shurling will be working on a CLE series on concealed weapon permits called “Armed and Dangerous.”
- b. **Diversity Task Force.** President Willis reported that Pamela Roberts has agreed to allow SCWLA nominate one of its members to serve on the Bar’s Diversity Task Force.

**X. Next Board Meeting:** The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, April 10 at Nexsen Pruet in Columbia.

**XII. Adjourn.** A motion was approved by those present to adjourn the meeting.