

SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, 5.16.13 - 11:00 a.m., at the Sea Island Grill/Wild Dunes Resort, Isle of Palms, SC

The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association met at the Sea Island Grill at the Wild Dunes Resort in the Isle of Palms, SC on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. Board members present at the meeting were: President, Cynthia Hall Ouzts; President-Elect, Tara Shurling; Immediate Past-President, Carolyn Matthews; Molly Cherry, Jennifer Howe, Karen Huelson, Jennifer Rubin, Kathy Smith, Flo Vinson, Amanda Williams, and Liz Zeck.

Excused absences: Sheila Bias, Cheryl Bullard, Amie Clifford, Ashley Cuttino, Laura Hart, Kelly Jolley, Sarah Leverette, Hannah Metcalfe, Julie Moose, Judge Mullen, Stephanie Nye, Abigail Walsh, Ayesha Washington, and Treasurer-Marguerite Willis.

- I. **President Ouzts called the meeting to order**, welcomed everyone, and expressed her appreciation to Tara Shurling for setting up the SCWLA lunch/board meeting at the beautiful Sea Island Grill at the Wild Dunes Resort.
- II. **The Minutes** of the March 14, 2013 meeting were read, moved and approved.
- III. **Treasurer's Report.** Marguerite Willis could not attend. President Ouzts referenced a report that had been circulated by email prior to the meeting. In her report, Marguerite had noted that in our BB&T account we had \$35, 949.74 and we just needed to receive an additional \$2,300.00 in dues to bring our income close to our planned budget. President Ouzts directed everyone's attention to the Regions' page and pointed out that some of the Regions had still not spent their allotted \$1500.00 but said that she and Liz and Kelly were working on that. President Ouzts thanked Mikki Lindler for getting the software and budget synchronized which resulted in much clearer reports. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted and it was seconded and voted upon favorably.
- IV. **President's Report.** President Ouzts said her report had already been circulated via email, but wanted to amend her report to add that Ayesha Washington had attended the Black Law Student Association's Annual Dinner along with herself and Karen Huelson. President Ouzts raved about "The Law and Society" Symposium she recently attended in Charleston, and said it was the most impressive event she had been to in a long time and SCWLA was one of only two sponsors at the \$1,000.00 level. The event was very well attended and we received top publicity/billing and the panels and speakers were very impressive. Judge Matthews reported that she and President Ouzts and Molly Cherry attended the reception the night before and they were able to get a photo with Justice O'Connor. President Ouzts said she hoped SCWLA would continue to sponsor this event in the future. This symposium was put on by the Law Review at the Charleston School of Law and co-sponsored by the Fuhrman Reilly Institute. President Ouzts said she had also attended two regional meetings and the reception for Women In Law from the USC School of Law at Gervais & Vine on April 9th in recognition of "Equal Pay Day." President Ouzts noted that when she was at the Spartanburg regional meeting, they told her how their women lawyers used to hand out "PayDay" candy bars on Equal Pay Day – and President Ouzts suggested that we hand those candy bars out to legislators next year. The important thing, President Ouzts said, was that we should commemorate the day each year and hopefully see the date move closer to January 1st. Karen Huelson was commended on the excellent job she had done in putting the reception together. President Ouzts said she had put the statistics of "Equal Pay Day" on our Facebook page, and Tara Shurling said that she thought someone should go

over those statistics at future Equal Pay Day receptions. Liz Zeck and Judge Matthews noted that the statistics were not *that* bad for women attorneys but that women could not seem to break through the 15% proportion of women as partners at major law firms (NAWL statistics). Tara Shurling reminded President Ouzts that money had been budgeted for the President and the President-Elect to attend both the NCWBA Conference and the NAWL conferences this year.

- V. **Regional Activity Liaison Committee:** Liz Zeck & Kelly Jolley. Liz Zeck reported that she was pleased that we now had really active representatives in all our regions. Liz thanked Bev Carroll for planning a great event for the Old English Region and for inviting (and calling) all lawyers that practiced in their region to the reception planned for May 30th at 5:00 p.m.

Regions: The Midlands. Karen Huelson reported that the Midlands planned (on May 23rd) to have the Administrator for the SC Department of Consumer Affairs and SCWLA member, Carrie Lybarker, speak on "Detecting, Deterring, and Preventing Identity Theft." Karen reported that on June 14th the League of Women Voters would be doing a presentation for us with their members also being invited to the lunch. Karen thanked Sarah Leverette for being our liaison with that group. Karen was also pleased to report that Alice Paylor (the new SC Bar President) would be the Midlands' speaker on September 11th. Karen said that the Midlands tried to offer its members at least 4-6 CLE hours annually and so far we had offered 2 hours of Ethics, one hour of SA/MH ethics credit and we planned to have a CLE-Legislative Update (in August or October) from Beth Bernstein which President Ouzts was working on for us. President Ouzts said we might also want to consider Katherine Wells because she worked with the SC Legislature and is a longtime SCWLA member. President Ouzts said she was also working on getting all women Legislators to join SCWLA. Karen reported a \$1,000.00 expenditure for the WIL/Equal Pay Day Reception (April 9th) in the Midlands which was a very successful event - as was the Art Museum Fundraiser for the SCWLA Foundation on April 18th. The Sea Islands. Kathleen Chewing had circulated a report and Cindy Ouzts reported that the Sea Islands had their wine tasting on Friday, April 4th. The Pee Dee. Flo Vinson reported that they had their Lunch & Learn on April 19th, at Lizard's Thicket, on Technology, with a lawyer from her law firm, Karl Folkens, serving as the speaker. Flo reported that the Florence Bar had sponsored a "Done in a Day" training on Identity Theft and they had about 12 lawyers and they were all "trained" on Identity Theft issues, then they had lunch, and people that had questions or had clients with questions were met with that afternoon. Flo suggested that we might consider doing this on our own as a public service kind of thing and said that their Bar had a template for it. They had this event at their local library and Legal Services publicized it. Greenville area of the Upstate. Bonnie Lynch would be taking over for Ashley Cuttino as regional representative for Ashley Cuttino in the Upstate.

- VI. **SCWLA Foundation.** Liz Zeck. Liz reported that the foundation had its first fundraising event at the Columbia Museum of Art (April 18th) and they had 45 attend and raised over \$1700.00 and the event itself came in under budget. The event involved a reception and a tour of the *Monet to Matisse* Exhibit by the museum's education department. Several members who had never attended SCWLA events attended and we even garnered a new member. Liz said that the Foundation wanted to do something similar around the state and asked board members to come up with some suggestions. Flo Vinson noted that the Florence Museum was opening a new building and that might offer an appropriate opportunity. Liz said she liked doing this type of fundraiser because it benefitted local venues (like museums) and the Foundation. Many who attended the Columbia event did write bigger checks than the requested fee - to give scholarship funds to the SCWLA Foundation. The Foundation had already voted to create two scholarships at \$1500.00 and they would be working with Pam Robinson from the USC Law School and someone from the Charleston School of Law to get the word out about applications for the scholarships. The applications would be due about the time students would come back to class this fall and hopefully scholarships would be awarded at some time during our Annual Seminar

in October. Liz Made a motion that SCWLA pay the room and board expenses of the scholarship recipients so they could receive their scholarships at our annual seminar. After discussion, this motion was seconded and voted upon favorably. Liz also asked that the board give their approval for the SCWLA Foundation to continue to work with the Columbia Museum of Art and any other regional locations to run similar fundraisers on behalf of the SCWLA Foundation. President Ouzts pointed out that the Foundation was scheduled to receive \$4,000.00 this year as seed money for any of its endeavors. President Ouzts said that no additional motion needed to be made to allow the Foundation to go forward with other regional fundraisers because the Foundation could use its in-house funds.

Martha Dicus Memorial Funds. Liz reported that Martha Dicus' family had asked us to assist in creating a sort of "pro bono/public interest" lawyer award (similar to the Bissell but with a different focus) to be given annually in Martha's honor. The Dicus family had already raised nearly \$25,000.00 that would be used in connection with this award. The family wanted the Foundation to create the criteria, publicize it and generally do whatever it took to establish this award. Doing this award would be a kind of partnership between the SCWLA Foundation and Martha's family since the Dicus family would be providing the funds and the Foundation would be doing whatever else the award required. Liz said the family was hoping that we would agree to do the award this year in conjunction with either the Bissell or the annual conference. President Ouzts said we might want to present this award at the luncheon (or at an appropriate time during the conference) and keep it separate from the Bissell, and everyone agreed. Judge Matthews asked if our check for \$500.00 had ever been written to the Martha Dicus Memorial Fund. Liz Zeck said she was sure it still needed to be sent and that we also needed to send \$500.00 to the Judge Perry Memorial Fund. President Ouzts said that someone needed to let Marguerite know who to specifically send these checks to and when to send them. Judge Matthews said that she would be responsible for letting Marguerite know. A motion was made to let the Dicus family know that the (Martha Dicus) award – would be presented in conjunction with our annual conference (time to be determined by the board and/or officers and the CLE Chair) – with the SCWLA Foundation agreeing to assist with all the details of the award. Jennifer Howe (Chair of this year's CLE) asked to be kept informed of all the details since she would ultimately be responsible for the timing of everything during the conference. Liz said she would finalize the details regarding this award with the Foundation at their meeting on June 5th. This motion was seconded and voted upon favorably.

VII. Media/Communications Report. Stephanie Nye had emailed her report to the board. Liz Zeck reported that the Regions had come up with a request to find an easy way to share "speaker" information and the concern was raised that it would be better to have that info available in a private part of the website that would be password protected and available only to board members, conference planners and regional representatives. Liz said that she had asked Stephanie to look into the cost of doing that and Stephanie talked with Jay Wingard (18street) our web designer, and she talked him down to a cost of \$1,000.00. Liz said that if the board approved the cost, we would be adding a password protected section to our website and it would be highly useful especially when it came to matters like speakers' personal contact info and evaluations of various speakers, etc. Once the password protected area was set up, Liz added, it would also be available to the board and regional reps for other uses. Liz made a motion to approve the payment of funds to provide us with a password protected area of the website and the motion was seconded and voted upon favorably. President Ouzts asked if the funds should come from the "Special Projects" funds now, and Liz said yes, they would like to get it done quickly. President Ouzts said she preferred not to go outside the budget this early in the year. President Ouzts commended Stephanie Nye and Sheila Bias for their wonderful work, especially for their postings on Facebook because it brought SCWLA a lot of new and valuable attention.

- a. **Professional Development.** (Combines *Mentoring, Membership* – Stephanie Nye and Jennifer Rubin – *Career Development* – Kelly Jolley and *The Ladder Group* – Amie Clifford). No report.
- b. **2013 Annual CLE in Greenville.** Jennifer Howe and Lynsey Kmetz. This CLE would be our first CLE broken into two days – Thursday, October 10th and Friday, October 11th in Greenville at the Westin Poinsett. Registration would start at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday and end at 2:00 p.m. on Friday. The Theme will be “Vision for Success.” Jennifer had already emailed a report to everyone. Jennifer reported that the agenda was looking really good– but that she still did not have the keynote luncheon speaker. Hillary Clinton, Condoleezza Rice, Facebook COO-Sheryl Sandberg, and Justice Sotomayor had all declined our invitations. We had a letter out now to ABA president, Laurel Bellows, and Lynsey Kmetz had seen Ms. Bellows speak and said she was really impressive. Our back-up plan would be to ask Darla Moore...and Kelly Jolley would be checking on Darla’s calendar to see if she was even available. Jennifer said that no matter who the keynote speaker was, she was expecting this seminar to be a high energy, great CLE. Jennifer asked the board to name a Chair for the 2014 CLE now, because she now knew that it took a lot of advance planning to do a great CLE. Jennifer said that she knew that our 2014 location was still undecided and that it could be in Columbia or at the Wild Dunes Resort where we were now meeting. Liz Zeck said that a Columbia location offered the promise of greater attendance because it would be less expensive for many. Jennifer Howe offered to Co-Chair with whoever agreed to be next year’s CLE Chair – to keep *continuity* and share what she had learned in doing the CLE this year. The critical thing, Jennifer said, was to get everything set early so we would be able to meet the Bar’s advertising deadlines. Jennifer Rubin suggested that we ask Madeleine Albright to be our Keynote Speaker and there was great support for that idea. Karen Huelson and Judge Matthews said that the SC Bar planned their events three years in advance and it gave them much greater negotiating power. President Ouzts said that she believed planning two years in advance would really be adequate for our numbers but that she agreed with Karen Huelson that we should get the date and venue set for future CLEs as soon as possible. Tara pointed out that the Chair of the CLE committee really needed to be from the area where the CLE would be and that the venue needed to be set first. Jennifer Howe recommended that at least a committee should be set to explore our various options. Tara suggested that we consider doing our 2014 CLE in a family friendly “resort” setting like other bar organizations do and she recommended exploring the option of the Wild Dunes Resort as the venue for our 2014 CLE. Tara noted that we could get a large block of single rooms at a reasonable rate, and they also had suites and condos that would be great for families. The Wild Dunes venue also offered great facilities for meeting rooms, the Bissell Reception and even a golf tournament and it would certainly offer a more scenic environment than downtown Charleston. Tara noted the Wild Dunes event planner would be available after our meeting to take us on a tour of all the facilities. Tara reported that Amie Clifford had planned many conferences at the Wild Dunes and that everything had always gone beautifully and their rates had been very reasonable. Liz Zeck said the only drawback would be the expense to our members and Tara said she believed it would be comparable to what we paid at the Francis Marion. President Ouzts said that we could name an “Education” sub-committee to start planning the 2014 CLE and she asked for someone to volunteer to be Chair. Jennifer Howe said that she already had a current CLE “committee” and they would plan and make recommendations at the August Board meeting regarding the 2014 CLE. Tara asked all board members who had the time - to stay with her and take a tour of the Wild Dunes’ facilities - after today’s meeting. Many board members agreed including Jennifer Howe. Jennifer Howe invited whoever was available to also discuss the 2014 CLE with her after today’s meeting and after the tour.

Golf Tournament. Jennifer Howe said they were considering having an early morning Thursday activity like a golf tournament in Chief Justice Toal's honor that would need a 9:00 a.m. tee time. Other early day options might include going to a spa or going on the BMW Driving Tour, or even a casual lunch. Kelly Jolley said she would see if the Chief would be interested. Jennifer Rubin believed it would be difficult for many attorneys to get the extra time off of work. Liz Zeck suggested planning something for Friday afternoon because there wouldn't be much point to going back to work then. Judge Matthews said that Justice Toal could probably not let her name be put on any aspect of the golf tournament – but that she definitely might like to participate. Karen Huelson suggested that for future CLE's we might want to plan them for a Friday/Saturday to make it easier on those who had difficulty getting off work. President Ouzts suggested that the 2014 CLE Committee consider a Friday/Saturday date selection.

- c. **DC TRIP for 2014** - Amie Clifford Chair. No report
- d. **Other CLEs** Amie Clifford. No report.
- e. **Awards and Nominating Committee.** Bissell Award. Tara Shurling, Chair. Tara reported that their committee had met at her office and they had revamped the notice that would be sent out to membership to open nominations for the Bissell. Tara said that the only real change was to make it clear to those submitting candidates – that they should support their nomination with *extensive* documentation and *numerous* letters. The plan was to send the notice out at the end of May and close nominations in the first week of August. Tara said that the usual attendance was around 125 and that would allow us to make use of the space offered to us for free by the Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice firm (via Sandy Miller) in Greenville. Tara said she would go up and visit this venue next week to see if it fit our needs. Tara said that the Womble Firm had a long standing caterer and they were also trying a new one and we could choose between the two. Kathy Smith suggested that Tara include a sentence in the announcement (regarding nominations for the Bissell), that previously submitted nominees would be considered for one additional year and additional documentation could be sent in to support previous nominations. Tara said there would be wording to that effect in the new announcement.
- f. **Bylaws.** Julie Moose. No report.
- g. **Community Outreach.** Non-Silent Auction Chairs: Liz Zeck & Amanda Williams. Silent Auction - Marguerite Willis and Tara Shurling. Tara said she was working with Marguerite to get geared up for the Silent Auction, though Marguerite was now in charge. Tara also said there had been some discussion about getting involved with Habitat for Humanity.
- h. **Long Range Planning.** Kelly Jolley. Kelly had submitted an email report. Kelly had already started finding a facilitator for our 2014 retreat (Susan Schneider from Hilton Head - one of our previous CLE speakers) and we would soon have a date set for around February/March, 2014.

VIII. Old Business.

- IX. **New Business.** (Special Projects funds) President Ouzts reported that she had spoken with Alice Paylor regarding the \$500.00 that SCWLA had voted to give to Alice's reception for her installation as President of the SC Bar. Alice told President Ouzts that no additional funds were needed. President Ouzts asked if Alice would approve of SCWLA contributing the \$500.00 to

the Bar Foundation in her honor and Alice said she would love for us to do that. President Ouzts made a motion to do that and it was seconded and approved.

History of Women Lawyers – to be taken up at a future meeting. Several board members said that SCWLA’s History should be on the website. President Ouzts said that 2014 would be the 20th Anniversary of SCWLA – so, this might be the year to document our history and use the annual CLE to celebrate it.

Chief Justice Toal’s retirement. Tara was asked to find out when her actual retirement date would be so we could plan and budget for an event. Tara stated that she would like to Chair the Committee that would plan this event and she asked who was willing to be on this committee. Stephanie Nye was volunteered as an obvious choice as was Sheila Bias. Jennifer Rubin and Liz Zeck also volunteered to serve.

NAWL Convention in NY. President Ouzts reported that we had again been asked to be a co-sponsor for its Annual Meeting and Awards Luncheon at no cost to us. The event would be at the Waldorf Astoria in NY on July 25, 2013. Our 2013 Budget had already set aside funds for President Ouzts and President-Elect Tara Shurling to attend this convention and NCWBA Convention in San Francisco in August. President Ouzts moved that we agree to be a co-sponsor of this NAWL event and this motion was seconded and voted upon favorably.

Judge Reception Contributions. President Ouzts noted that SCWLA members Maite Murphy (Circuit Court) and Monet Pincus (Family Court) were both being installed as judges this year. Liz Zeck suggested that we set the criteria for donations for reception amounts as: “county-wide” offices - which would receive \$250.00; and “state-wide” offices – which would receive \$500.00. The Board agreed. Jennifer Rubin asked if new Judges Michelle Manigault Hurley and Kelly Pope were SCWLA Members and if they were, Tara Shurling suggested that we let them know that we were sorry to have missed the opportunity to contribute to their receptions, and ask if we could now contribute to the Bar Foundation in their honor. President Ouzts agreed.

Fuhrman’s Reilly Diversity Initiative. Judge Matthews said she had spoken with President Ouzts about the possibility of sponsoring someone for the Reilly Diversity Initiative. Judge Matthews stated that when they approached her to become involved they told her the Initiative was about “Different Leadership Styles.” Judge Matthews said she did get involved and went to the think tank and interactive experiences they offered and found that these experiences were very mind opening to her and she met some great people. Judge Matthews said that some very high-end groups sponsor these things from the Greenville Hospital System, to Duke Energy, to Michelin, and BMW because Dick Reilly involved them. Judge Matthews said she had just spoken with Don Gordon (the Director) today and he said to sponsor a single person would be \$3,000.00. Don Gordon also said that a lot of people gave *half* sponsorships, which were \$1,500.00. There were two programs planned each year in the Upstate, one in the Midlands in the spring and one in the Low Country in Charleston in the fall. Don Gordon said that if we at least gave a half scholarship we could nominate the person who would attend. In any event, it would be a tremendous opportunity for whoever we would nominate. Judge Matthews said that every year these events just got bigger and bigger. Judge Matthews did note the program did require a significant time commitment - one day a month of from January through June. Still Judge Matthews said that it was a great mind opening and networking opportunity. Everyone agreed that participation was something we should consider at the next board meeting.

X. **Member News.** Karen Huelson reported that Sarah Leverette has broken her foot and she passed around a card for everyone to sign. President Ouzts reported that Ayesha Washington was currently having surgery on her knee. Jennifer Rubin asked to have news of “Stars” and “Rising Star” attorneys who are SCWLA members – posted on the website. President Ouzts asked Jennifer to send her a list and President Ouzts said she would be sure to get it posted. Liz Zeck encouraged everyone to send any good news they heard about SCWLA members to Stephanie.

- XI. Next Board Meetings:** August 15th at McNair in Columbia at noon, and; October 10th at 12:00 p.m. in Greenville at McNair.
- XII. Adjournment.** There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and voted upon favorably.