

SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 10, 2015

The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association met at Nexsen Pruet Law Firm in Columbia, South Carolina on Friday, April 10, 2015, at 12:00 p.m.

Board members present at the meeting were: President, Marguerite Willis; President-Elect Kelly Jolley; Treasurer, Julie Moose; Secretary, Molly Cherry; Sheila Bias, Amie Clifford, Karen Huelson, Sarah Leverette; and Elizabeth Zeck.

Board Members participating by phone were: Immediate Past President, Tara Shurling; Meliah Jefferson; Lynsey Kmetz; Hannah Metcalfe; Kristen Nichols; Jennifer Rubin; Jennie Cerrati; Flo Vinson; and Ayesha Washington.

Board Members absent: Jennifer Ashburn; Lisa Claxton; Ruth Cupp; Ashley Cuttino; Jennifer Howe; Alison Lee; Carmen Mullen; Stephanie Nye; Cynthia Ouzts; Laura Paton; Mary Beth Pfister; Abigail Walsh; and Ashley Williams.

Others present: Jay Wingard; Melinda Lindler; and Taylor Lindler.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Before President Willis called the meeting to order, Jay Wingard, of 18th Street Design, gave a presentation on the recent revitalization of the SCWLA website and communication materials, providing explanations for the changes that were made. Jay left after his presentation and before the meeting was called to order.

I. Call to Order. President Willis called the meeting to order, with a quorum of board members present. She called for a moment of silence in support of board member Jennifer Howe and her pregnancy with her second child.

II. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Julie Moose reported on the finances, noting there is \$35,975.30 in the BB&T Money Market account and \$83,172.44 in the Wells Fargo checking account as of March 31, 2015. Julie presented the 2015 proposed budget, as well as an actual comparison of budgeted items through March 31, 2015. Of note, \$65,833 in dues have been received from the SC Bar for 2015, which represents an \$18,700 increase from dues in 2014. The increase is largely the result of the increase in the annual dues for membership, as opposed to an increase in the number of members, which President Willis explained further in the meeting.

ACTION TAKEN: Julie submitted the proposed 2015 budget to the board for approval and moved that the budget be approved. Amie Clifford seconded the Motion. President Willis called for a voice vote, and the Motion was approved unanimously.

Julie also explained the need for a policy regarding expense reimbursement and a procedure for check requests. To that end, Julie circulated a check request procedure and check request form for consideration.

ACTION TAKEN: Julie moved for approval of use of the check request procedure and form. Sheila Bias seconded the Motion. President Willis called for a voice vote, and the Motion was approved unanimously.

III. Regional Activity Liaison/Regional Reports.

Midlands Regional Report and Regional Update. Karen Huelson reported on the success of this week's Midlands regional meeting and the continued efforts to energize the regions and encourage members to participate in regional events by providing dynamic speakers at programs. This has included sessions designed to meet ethics, substance abuse/mental health (SA/MH), and substantive law reporting requirements. Karen highlighted the success of the "The Basics of VA Benefits" program presented by South Carolina attorney and retired U.S. Army Major Kenny Dojaquez. Several of the regions have held the 2-hour annual ethics update, and Karen assisted various regional reps in acquiring credit for these programs.

Professional Development/Other CLEs Committee. Amie Clifford reported on her efforts to develop CLE programs for members. She is working to find original speakers on a variety of topics who are willing to prepare written materials and speak for 45 to 60 minutes. Amie's idea is to create a database so that the written materials can be used by different speakers at different regions in the state and to create a menu of topic options so that members can choose the topics that most interest them. Amie intends to create an electronic database and flyers and to band the materials/marketing of programs by using the same colors and style from the website to identify the program as a SCWLA product. The goal is to have 20 programs by the end of 2015. Sarah Everette asked specifically about help for solo practitioners.

Sheila Bias noted that, as part of the mentoring subcommittee, there is a July "conversation series" that will be geared toward solo practitioners.

Membership. President Willis reported that one focus in 2015 will be supporting the Women in Law groups at the University of South Carolina School of Law and the Charleston School of Law, with the idea of building membership in SCWLA from the ground up. She noted efforts at supporting law schools and students, including a recent 5K at the University of South Carolina School of Law. On May 5, 2015, there will be a Cinco de Mayo fundraiser at Tin Roof. Because the annual conference will be at the law school this year, the WIL law students will be able to attend for free.

Sheila Bias also reported on one of the recent efforts to offer more social gathering opportunities for member: a wine and painting event at Grapes and Gallery in Columbia, where approximately 20 members attended.

Annual Conference Planning. Sheila Bias is chairing the Convention Committee. The Convention is Friday, October 23, 2015 at University of South Carolina School of Law. The theme is "Back to the Future" and the keynote speaker is Debbie Epstein Henry, a legal futurist. The agenda is still being planned, but one of the subjects addressed will be the future of legal marketing. It is going to be a fun and interactive event, including food trucks for lunch and

having vendors with interactive displays. President Willis noted that the law school has donated the space for free..

Bissell Award. President-Elect Kelly Jolley reported on the Bissell Award. Kelly reported that they are trying to keep the event in theme with the convention. The reception will be at the Mezzanine at the SC State Museum on Thursday, October 22, 2015. The evening will be an awards night. While the Bissell Award will be the main event, the scholarship and community service awards will be given, as well.

Toal Award. Immediate Past President Tara Shurling reported on the Toal Award. Charlie Pate (father of Charles Pate, Jr.) is willing to sculpt the bronze and create the mold for between \$1000 and \$1500. Tara will circulate next week the new artist rendering of the award.

ACTION TAKEN: A motion was made by President Willis to amend the 2015 Budget to increase Awards and Gifts by \$2,500 (for a total of \$3,500) to pay for the creation of the bronze and the purchase of any awards during 2015. Amie Clifford seconded the Motion. The Motion was approved unanimously by voice vote.

U.S. Supreme Court Admissions Ceremony. Two dates have been reserved for SCWLA's trip to the U.S. Supreme Court to move for admission: Monday, December 14, 2015, and (2) Monday, May 30, 2017. Amie Clifford explained that before information about the trips can be disseminated, a decision needs to be made as to who will accompany the group and move for admission, noting that with Chief Justice Toal's upcoming retirement, we will need to ask someone else to do so. The committee will make a recommendation at the next board meeting.

SCWLA Foundation. Liz Zeck updated the Board on the Foundation's 2015 scholarships. There are 7 applicants: 5 from USC School of Law; and 2 from the Charleston School of Law for scholarships. Announcement of the winners will be made soon before graduation, with a formal announcement to follow in the fall. The Foundation will publicize Pam Robinson as the Dicus award from 2014 and will call for submissions for this year.

IV. Executive Session

President Willis called for executive session. Any non-members in attendance left the meeting. At the conclusion of discussion, the meeting was resumed.

V. President's Report. President Willis reported that her next "President's Letter" will be on Equal Pay Day. She highlighted a very interesting program/pilot program being developed by Shannon Bobertz. On June 5, Shannon Bobertz will host a workshop at DNR facilities outside of Columbia in Swansea where a limited number of SCWLA members can participate in skeet shooting or archery and also earn CLE credit. It is limited to 40 people, and President Willis encouraged board members to attend. If this program is successful, we will look at re-creating it and similar programs in other regions.

President Willis spoke with Terry Burdett at SC Bar and what the SC Bar does with concealed weapons permitting. Terry wants to work with SCWLA on programs around the state. Our upstate representative has an announcement for a seminar on concealed weapons training.

V. Minutes. The Minutes of the January 4, 2015 Board Meeting were discussed.

ACTION TAKEN: A motion was unanimously approved to accept the January 24, 2015 Minutes as submitted.

VI. Next Board Meeting. The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, June 19th at 1 p.m. at Nexsen Pruet in Columbia. Note time change.

VII. Adjourn. A motion was approved by those present to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.