

**SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, May 19, 2008– 3:00 p.m., at the McNair Law Firm in Columbia, SC**

The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association met at the McNair Law Firm in Columbia at 3:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were: President, Liz Crum; President-Elect, Jenny Horne; Treasurer, Liz Zeck; Stephanie Nye, Sarah Leverette, Bebe Barton, Cheryl Bullard, Amie Clifford, Cindy Ouzts, Karen Huelson, Tara Dawn Shurling and SCWLA Webmaster, Eleanor Kellett. Kelly Jolley, Julie Moose & Ayesha Washington attended by phone.

- I. President Crum called the meeting to order.**
- II. The Minutes** of the January 26, 2008 meeting were read, moved and approved once a quorum was present.
- III. Treasurer’s Report.** The Administrator, Angel Warren, was asked to leave while the board discussed a possible raise for her. Liz Zeck suggested that we raise the per person regional allocation amount to \$6 rather than \$5, and Liz Crum suggested that we defer that raise until we see what the correction cost for the documentary might be. Liz Zeck also reported that any funds still left over from the DSS room project would be used to furnish additional supplies now needed in the room. Liz Zeck then brought up the question of SCWLA policy re: “fundraising,” and stated that it was critical that all planning and fundraising go *through the board* and the SCWLA bank account. Liz Crum said she believed that we should first consider whether we should even be an organization that raises money for others and that we should certainly be cautious about using our listserv for fundraising requests. Bebe Barton pointed out that the listserv policy had been set years ago, and that policy clearly indicated that we should always use the listserv, “sparingly.” Bebe also noted that SCWLA had always struggled with what kind of activities it could become involved in without losing members or jeopardizing its *non-profit* status. Liz Zeck said she believed that it was obvious that there was a *social concern* component to SCWLA, and that certain things like an annual scholarship would easily fall within the parameters of anticipated activities – and Liz Crum said that the Long Range Planning Committee should also consider that possibility. Liz Crum requested that the “Listsers Policy” be reaffirmed by posting it on the website. Board members suggested that the definition of “related to SCWLA,” should be understood as something that would clearly be *of interest* to our membership, like WIL, or *rainmaking*, etc.

**Regional Reports.** Natalie Bluestein - The Low Country continued to have its lunch meetings at Carolina’s restaurant in downtown Charleston each month. Their last luncheon was a 2.5 hour CLE (free to members) presented by From Darkness to Light on Sexual Abuse Education and Prevention. They will have a 1.0 hour CLE in September on What Every Lawyer Needs to Know about HIPAA. Karen Huelson reported that the Midlands continued to have its first Thursday lunch meetings with varying speakers, at the Palmetto Club and had offered two free CLE’s since January. The June lunch would feature Sarah Leverette as the speaker and would be a “Sarah-bration,” of her life. Kelly Jolley reported that the Sea Islands Region had some informal lunches but had not held an island wide lunch. There were plans for a Hilton Head Island and Bluffton lunch scheduled for Sept 9-11.

**Media Reports.**

Website. Webmaster, Eleanor Kellett.

Briefcase. Stephanie Nye reported that her editing of the spring edition of the *Briefcase* was a bit behind – but that allowed her additional time to add pictures from tonight’s reception for Justice Toal. Stephanie noted that she was receiving more reports from the regions, but that she would still appreciate receiving more content from members. She said she would like to have additional committee members that actually worked on submissions for the newsletter – so she could be free to simply edit. Kelly Jolley and Karen Huelson volunteered to assist on this committee. Bebe suggested that we print some copies of each edition and Liz Crum volunteered to print at least 10 – so we would have them to showcase at upcoming events. Webmaster Eleanor Kellett suggested we ask a large advertiser to trade advertising for printing and possibly mailing the newsletter. President Crum said she would create a new committee (made up of herself, Eleanor Kellett, Cindy Ouzts, Tara Shurling and Liz Zeck) – to look into the possibility of getting an advertiser per quarter to print and mail out the *Briefcase*. This new committee was named, “*Briefcase* Support.”

**IV. Committees. Board members need to contact President Crum re: changes to committee(s).**

a. Membership. Natalie Bluestein could not attend.

b. Career Development. No report was available.

c. 2008 CLE – President Crum reported that SCWLA had looked into working with NC or GA on presenting a major CLE this year, with the help of Judge Williams and Bebe Barton, but those plans had not materialized. President Crum stated that our plans for a “big” CLE did not even have to occur this year, and that we could plan now, for next year. President Crum said Justice Toal had indicated that she would be willing to help us plan a major CLE for winter, 2009, that could include many female Chief Justices and potentially, Justice O’Connor. President Crum said that all options for the CLE were still on the table, but that Sarah Leverette had just received a grant from a group affiliated with the League of Women Voters, to do a Forum on the Independence of the Judiciary and Sarah hoped to put that program together for presentation on Constitution Day, September 17<sup>th</sup>, in Columbia, with SCWLA as a major co-sponsor. Sarah noted that the LWVs was a “non-partisan” group that was primarily interested in the *educational* aspect of this event. Sarah said that SCWLA had a significant interest in exploring this topic because a diverse judiciary is the best way to insure its independence. Sarah noted that a similar event was held last year in Charleston with a wide range of sponsors, and it was very well attended. A packet with all the details for the proposed forum was given out. The main purpose of the event would be to educate the public regarding the optimal role of the judiciary and how that role could be distorted if the judicial branch of government did not function independently of the legislative and executive branch. While SC’s manner of choosing judges was probably preferable to popular election, the legislature still had enormous control over the selection process which could diminish the independence of the judiciary. Most SC citizens had little understanding of the role of the judiciary and how it is elected, and Justice Toal told Sarah that she would commit to being one of the presenters at such a forum. Other speakers would include someone from SCWLA, the judicial selection commission, the legislature, the law schools, and others interested in diversity. The event would be open to everyone, though lawyers could still receive CLE credit. Various board members suggested exploring related topics like the disciplinary process, funding, and non-lawyer judges. The board moved and approved SCWLA’s participation in this forum, including some financial contribution. Karen Huelson, Amie Clifford

and Bebe Barton volunteered to assist Sarah, and videotaping the event for use in schools was suggested. **Planning Next Year's CLE.** Bebe cautioned that we need to give the SC Bar plenty of notice as we plan next year's CLE. The anticipated location would be Charleston and potential dates would include February March or April, or (because of planning requirements) October of 2009. The board unanimously approved moving forward with planning a major CLE for 2009. Justice Toal was enthusiastic about "Independence of the Judiciary," being the topic, and involving other Chief Justices and potentially Justice O'Connor. Someone suggested that our proposed date be set according to the availability of Justice O'Connor and Justice Toal. President Crum suggested that the 2008 CLE Committee do this year's 2-hour CLE with the Bissell Award and that a "Special CLE Committee," be formed to plan the 2009 CLE. Anyone interested in working on the 2009 CLE was asked to email the Administrator. Bebe Barton, Amie Clifford, Cindy Ouzts, and Tara Shurling indicated that they definitely wanted to be involved.

- d. **Supreme Court Trip 2008.** Abigail Walsh and Toya Hampton Green. Ayesha Washington, who planned to go on the trip, reported that she had received her itinerary from Abigail and that everything was set to go. The trip anticipated a "leisure day," on Sunday, a social and dinner on Monday, and a breakfast on Tuesday – prior to participants being sworn in at the Supreme Court at 10:00 a.m.
- e. **Mini-CLEs.** Amie Clifford reported that she was working on offering a 2-hour ethics seminar to be offered in multiple venues throughout the state. It would involve a set of pre-made materials that could be used by a variety of speakers as the program moved through the various SCWLA regions. Amie was checking out various courthouses as possible venues and was in contact with Lee Coggiola and Barbie Seymour as potential presenters. The tentative program would involve a review of the disciplinary process and a legal update, solicitation of legal advertising, issues for government and public sector lawyers, and a question and answer session. Additionally, some scenarios will be prepared for discussion, just in case there weren't enough questions. Amie asked whether the board would approve the payment of mileage expenses if and when a speaker had to travel to present, and the board unanimously agreed. Amie said that apart from the \$50 registration fee for the Commission on CLE, the mileage expense would be the only other expense for these programs. The only printing cost would be an agenda page with a copy of the speaker's bio because all other materials would be emailed or downloaded from the website. The target dates would be June and July, starting in Charleston. Amie said that the Bar should be asked to announce the seminars in their E-Blast, as a members-only – or "pay SCWLA dues" to attend, event. Liz Zeck suggested that we check with the Bar – to see what a yearly rate for a non-profit, registering multiple CLEs, would be.
- f. **Awards and Nominating Committee.** Bebe Barton recommended that this committee report on SCWLA members that have received awards, stay informed regarding upcoming awards and nominate appropriate individuals for those awards. Amie Clifford stated that she believed that the Ladder Group should also take responsibility in this area and that she believed the two committees could share in this endeavor. Bebe stated that she would work on nominating Elizabeth Van Doren Gray for the DuRant Award, this fall. President Crum asked Jenny Horne if she was comfortable heading up this committee in light of her upcoming race for the House of Representatives from Summerville/Dorchester County. Jenny said she would wait and see. -

**Bissell Award.** President Crum said the Bissell Award and reception would be held as a separate event this fall, since the board had determined not to go forward with a major CLE until next year. Amie Clifford suggested that we combine the event with a 2-hour CLE, to insure wide attendance. Suggested CLE topics included ethics, a legislative update, witnessing statements, and/or conflicts.

- g. **Bylaws.** Julie Moose attended but had to leave before she could report.
- h. **Documentary.** Liz Zeck. Bebe Barton reported on the history of the making of the documentary and its present state and the problems that stood in the way of its being expanded, shown and used. The main hurdle continued to be copyright issues that required money to resolve. Bebe said that she and Liz Zeck recently had a meeting where they went over all pertinent records. Liz stated that she hoped to make use of several personal contacts in Charleston to help get the film corrected and released to us at a reasonable cost. Once we had title to the raw footage – we would be able to determine how to put it together in a fashion similar to the original, without any copyright concerns. Liz Zeck commented that it was good that we had sufficient funds on hand to make a good faith effort to reclaim and restore the documentary.
- i. **The Ladder Group.** Amie Clifford. Amie reported that she needed updated information on anyone who was interested in being appointed to state boards and commissions, or who had an interest in having their information available to the committee for purposes of award consideration. For the updating of the resume bank, Amie created a form that would now be available on the website and could also be emailed as an attachment to members. When returned, Amie planned to scan, catalogue and store each form. Amie said she would send members a few introductory paragraphs about the purpose of the Ladder Group and would then ask them to access the form online and return it to her. Amie hoped to eventually let each board member have a CD of all the referenced catalogued individuals, so if anyone received a request to recommend someone, they could do so immediately. Amie said she would send the form to all board members for their suggestions regarding changes and/or additions. President Crum asked if the Long Range Planning Committee should be asked to put our *received* information together for our members as a referral source, and Bebe Barton responded by stating that she would like a hard copy or a CD so she could actually give someone a name when she was asked for a lawyer referral. Liz Zeck suggested that we collect limited info on all submitting members (after noting the desired limits of their information's use) so that we could easily locate individuals and recommend appropriate members, when asked.

- V. **New Business.** Bebe reported that the survey on professional satisfaction, that she was working on for the SC Bar, would be conducted with out-of-state attorneys before being brought back to SC. President Crum recommended that everyone read an article regarding a recent NAWL Survey on career satisfaction, that could be accessed from the NAWL website. Our recent reception with Women In Law (WIL) from the USC School of Law, was quite successful, and President Crum suggested that we plan similar receptions for next fall and spring. Potentially, we could charge our members \$10, to defray expenses. Natalie could plan something similar with the Charleston Law School's group. Everyone was looking forward to tonight's Summit Club reception honoring Justice Toal and her 20 years of service on the Supreme Court. SCWLA's gift would be a replacement for

her gold Ladder pin. This reception had garnered many new SCWLA members. Tara Shurling offered her home with its new outdoor entertaining area for future SCWLA receptions.

**VI. Member News.** Ginny Nissen Waller was chosen as the Outstanding Young Lawyer by the YLD of the Bar this year.

**VII. Next Board Meetings:** August 15, 2008; November 21, 2008

**VIII. Adjournment.** There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn. It was seconded and voted upon favorably.