

**SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 30, 2009–2:00 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, SC, on Thursday, April 30, at 2:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were: President, Jenny Horne (attended by phone); President-Elect, Natalie Bluestein; Treasurer, Liz Zeck; Secretary, Judge Matthews; Immediate Past President, Liz Crum; Stephanie Nye (Webmaster & Briefcase Editor); Marguerite Willis, Karen Crane, Ericka Williams, Julie Moose, Karen Huelson, Mary Hewlette, Cindy Ouzts, Sarah Leverette, Amie Clifford, and Tara Dawn Shurling. Also present by phone, were: Molly Cherry, Cheryl Bullard, and Kelley Jolly.

- I. Immediate Past President, Liz Crum called the meeting to order and President Jenny Horne participated by phone.**
- II. The Minutes** of the January 24, 2009 meeting were read, moved and approved. Amie Clifford moved to have the January Minutes amended to reflect the fact that she was absent because of work requirements. The board seconded the request and voted upon it favorably.
- III. Treasurer’s Report.** Liz Zeck had previously sent reports to everyone via email, but noted that SCWLA’s current worth was over \$60,780.00. Liz Crum made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s report and it was seconded and voted upon favorably. Liz Zeck said our spending isn’t going up, but our membership is, and that’s why we have an excellent balance sheet. Regarding projections – Liz stated our income this year will be a little higher than last – though the “interest” we receive will clearly be lower. Someone asked if we could save money on our “free” CLEs by becoming qualified as a *CLE provider* with the Commission, for a flat fee (rather than paying \$50 for every CLE we offer) – and the answer was that at this point with our limited history of providing CLEs on our own – we do not have sufficient “history” to qualify. The plan now is to start keeping a file on the CLEs that we do provide so that we will qualify in the future. If we have a “travelling” CLE that remains the same – then we only pay a one-time fee for that CLE (for a year) – so it is good from an economic perspective to offer that same CLE to all our regions. Natalie Bluestein offered to share her personal “file” (on offering CLEs) to us, so that SCWLA could qualify sooner. Liz Zeck noted that \$4000.00 had been paid to the design house that created the new website and additionally moved that Stephanie Nye be paid \$1250.00 a quarter for her responsibilities as webmaster and blogger and this was seconded and voted upon favorably. Liz also noted that over \$300.00 was left over from the last DC trip and she recommended that those funds be used to contribute to the Harriet McBryde Johnson Scholarship Fund. Liz Crum moved that those leftover funds and funds sufficient to make it \$500, be contributed to Harriet’s Scholarship Fund. The motion was seconded and voted upon favorably. Liz Zeck also noted that around \$500.00 per reception should be allocated for bi-annual member get-togethers with the WIL groups in the Midlands and the Low Country. Liz Zeck also suggested that we consider creating a SCWLA scholarship (probably for law students-perhaps \$5000 a year) fund and use events like silent auctions to help augment it. Finally, Liz Zeck asked if anyone knew if we were required to make our tax returns publicly available, and if so, where? President Horne thought that all these forms might already be online through the SC Secretary of

State. Amie Clifford asked and volunteered to investigate getting Officer and Director Liability Insurance for SCWLA.

**IV. Regional Reports.** Natalie Bluestein reported that the Low Country continued to have monthly lunches on the third *Thursday* of every month and had *speakers* every other month. Natalie said this year they planned to offer 4 free CLEs to members only. Every other month, Low Country members were encouraged to bring guests. Natalie also stated that she might have a reception for those who successfully pass the bar and remain in Charleston this summer. Also planned was a reception with the local WIL in the fall. The Greenville area of the Upstate – new board member and Regional Representative, Karen Crane reported that her Region recently offered the Barbie Seymour Ethics CLE and would soon be offering a two and a half hour CLE by Tara Shurling on PCR's. The Midlands. Karen Huelson reported that they continued to have first Thursday lunch meetings with varying speakers, at the Palmetto Club. They had great success doing short CLE's-with Judge Strickland for .5 hours, and Tara Shurling for 1 hour. In April, the Midlands had a late afternoon reception with WIL at Wild Wings in the Vista, and SCWLA paid for the food while everyone bought their own adult drinks.

**Media Reports.** Website. Stephanie Nye noted that professional photographer, Rick Smoak, was present to take photos of the board because good photos were essential to the look of the new website. Stephanie said the homepage of the new website would feature "rolling" photos that would give the site a more personal feel than stock photos. Stephanie said she had been working with Jay C. Wingard's group -*18<sup>th</sup> Street Design* - to create the new website. She reported that the website was nearly ready to go – that the member "Directory" was built – and ready to have member info entered. Every member would soon be notified by email to go online and enter their own personal info and to keep it updated. Once entered, all this info would allow users to search for members according to areas of practice, and/or location. Stephanie said the site looked very professional and would be easy to use. There would be a calendar – that would list all events in all regions and the regional reps were strongly encouraged to keep Stephanie updated on these events. Stephanie said that the site was nearly ready to launch and she hoped to have everything ready to go quickly in order to support the upcoming Charleston Symposium featuring retired Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor. What the site needed most was "content," Stephanie said, and she knew she would need to have the help of member volunteers to keep the site current and interesting. She also said that she was open to any and all ideas concerning the website and that she had the ability to easily implement such changes. The board was told they would receive a "template" of the site – and their comments would be welcome. Stephanie noted that the site had privacy capability because certain areas would be for "members only." Amie Clifford requested that a section devoted to "CLE materials" be password protected so that only members would have access. This would help SCWLA save on printing costs for its free CLEs. Streaming video would be available through links to other sites – and that would help us keep costs down, too. Sarah Leverette stated that a video from the 2008 Forum on the Judiciary was available on a certain website – and that it would be great to provide a link to that – for educational purposes. Amie Clifford also asked for a merchandising section that could offer members items like publications, the ladder pin, and cups, etc. Stephanie said she hoped to also have "rolling" current news on the site and hoped members would eventually choose the site as their homepage. Tara Shurling suggested that we look into ads for the site and President Horne agreed and asked Stephanie to follow up. Regarding the *Briefcase*, Stephanie asked that people continue to send her articles – and said she could include a column on "recommended

books,” if members would send her their reviews. Stephanie said she might also like to “re-publish” old *Briefcase* articles that were definitely worth re-visiting. Stephanie announced that she planned to create a SCWLA “blog” (which could include “guest” bloggers) and a “twitter” account- both of which would be really valuable during the upcoming symposium – to get members’ responses and to share the event with members who could not attend. Stephanie noted that the *Briefcase* needed commitments from folks who would submit columns on a recurring basis. The Board applauded Stephanie for all her excellent work.

## V. Committees.

### a. Membership.

Natalie Bluestein reported that membership was up and the free CLEs were the biggest draw for new members joining SCWLA. Greenville had 2 new male members join at a recent CLE.

### b. Career Development. Amie Clifford.

- c. 2009 CLE – Bebe Barton could not attend. Our fall 2009 CLE in Charleston, with Justice O’Connor as our honored guest, will be at the Francis Marion Hotel with the planned dates of: October 1-3, 2009. (Dates have now been revised to begin on September 30<sup>th</sup>). The Fourth Circuit will have a special sitting, in Charleston, to kick off the event. There will be a “dinner conversation,” with Marci Hamilton lined up to be the interviewer- since she is writing a book about Justice O’Connor. There will be a CLE with various judges on different panels. There will be the Bissell Reception at the Charleston Aquarium. The NC Women Lawyers will have a breakfast for their members and possibly a golf tournament. The CLE topics will soon be set, and Justice O’Connor will be involved in 1-2 of those panel discussions. Everything at this event would be limited to SCWLA members only. Firms with offices in both North and South Carolina would be asked to help with the cost of the Bissell Reception. Tara Shurling volunteered and asked permission to do a silent auction in conjunction with the Charleston Symposium – with the profits to go to a Low Country Regional Alzheimer’s Foundation. Tara also suggested that a cool design be found to do a T-shirt for the conference and Amie Clifford suggested that we solicit designs from some of the judges for such a shirt. It was suggested that people could bid on the original artwork from the judge’s designs at the auction. Tara’s plan for the auction would be to have it run during the time of the CLE so that people could bid during breaks, etc. Tara wanted to target donations from service providers, restaurants, jewelry & art, and gift certificates from retail establishments. Tara hoped that regional reps would send out emails inviting their members to give or seek donations. Tara stated that businesses would choose to take their donations as an advertising write off, but individuals would prefer to list their donation as a charitable contribution. Liz Crum offered to contact Debbie Hottel, and see if we could do the auction under the auspices of the Alzheimer Foundation. Liz Crum also suggested auctioning off books signed by Justice O’Connor. Tara said she hoped the website would be great at stirring up excitement for the auction. Marguerite Willis asked what was being done for fund raising and was told that the initial budget for the reception, etc. was \$30,000.00. The Board set contribution levels at: \$5000-Platinum; \$2,500-Gold; \$1,000-Silver; \$500-999-Patron; under \$500-Friend. Liz Crum noted that SCWLA contributed \$5000 to the NC CLE for the Ginsburg Reception – and the board agreed that the NC Bar should be asked to do something similar to support the O’Connor Reception. Jenny asked that letters soliciting contributions go

out in the next two weeks – and that our board members in those firms be informed as to when the letters are go out so they can follow up on their firm’s participation. Liz Crum stated that contributions give you advertising and Bissell attendance – but not admittance to the dinner. Marguerite Willis suggested that if anyone gives \$5000 – it would be good if we could find them 2 seats for the dinner and get them signage everywhere. Marguerite Willis, Amie Clifford, Tara Shurling, and Sarah Leverette wrote checks to SCWLA and gave them to Liz Zeck to reserve their “dinner” seats. President Horne suggested and the entire board agreed that we would like to “reconsider –” the dinner *venue* – so that we could have *more* seats for those who wished to attend. Tara Shurling suggested that there be some kind of “commemorative” item from SCWLA – given out to this year’s CLE registrants – (a bag or a cup, etc.)

- d. Supreme Court Trip 2010. Karen Crane reported that they have a May 3, 2010 date set. Karen stated that she was pretty much following what was done on the last trip – and that the dinner, reception and breakfast were now set. The Hotel is the Phoenix – and the swearing-in fee cost is now \$200.00.
- e. Mini-CLEs. Amie Clifford.
- f. Awards and Nominating Committee. President Horne stated that the Bissell Award Committee needs to be set up for next year – and as soon as the October event is over, a listserv needs to go out asking for Bissell nominations for 2010.
- g. Bylaws.
- h. Community Outreach. Tara Shurling.
- i. Documentary. Liz Zeck.
- j. The Ladder Group. Amie Clifford. Amie offered to email her report because of time.
- k. Long Range Planning. Marguerite Willis passed around a spreadsheet that included all the long range plans of all the women lawyers associations that had one. Unfortunately, very few had any. After reviewing, she shared her thoughts and thought we were doing a pretty good job.

**VI. New Business.** Kaye Hearn will be a new SC Supreme Court Justice.

**VII. Member News.**

**VIII. Next Board Meetings:** -sometime in July. Last meeting will be on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> prior to the Bissell.

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