

SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Saturday, January 24, 2009–12:00 noon, at Sea Captain’s Restaurant in Myrtle Beach, SC

The Board of Directors of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association met at Sea Captain’s restaurant in Myrtle Beach, SC at 12:00 noon. Present at the meeting were: President, Liz Crum; President-Elect, Jenny Horne; Treasurer, Liz Zeck; Secretary, Natalie Bluestein; Immediate Past President, Rosalyn Frierson; Stephanie Nye (also Briefcase Editor); SCWLA Historian, Ruth Cupp, Marguerite Willis, Judge Matthews, Toya Green, Cheryl Bullard, Molly Cherry, Karen Crane, Ericka Williams, Bebe Barton and Tara Dawn Shurling. Also present were past presidents, Kif Cook and Alice Paylor and retiring board member, Toya Green.

- I. **President Crum called the meeting to order**, had everyone introduce themselves, and welcomed Past Presidents, Rosalyn Frierson, Bebe Barton, Kif Cook and Alice Paylor and thanked them for all they had done over the years for SCWLA. President Crum acknowledged and thanked retiring board members (Toya Green, Cathy McCabe, Rosalyn Frierson and Zandra Johnson) and welcomed new board members, Molly Cherry, Karen Crane, Jennifer Breaux and Ericka Williams. President Crum also congratulated incoming President Jenny Horne on her recent election to the SC House of Representatives and everyone applauded Jenny’s success.
- II. **Election of New Officers.** The Nominating Committee’s slate of officers for the 2009 Board was read: Jenny Anderson Horne, President; Natalie Bluestein, President-Elect; Elizabeth Zeck, Treasurer (and next year’s President-Elect); Carolyn Cason Matthews, Secretary; and Mary Elizabeth Crum, Immediate Past President. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate, and the slate of officers was elected by acclamation. The meeting was turned over to newly elected President, Jenny Horne, who welcomed the new officers individually and they were greeted with applause from the board.
- III. **Newly elected President, Jenny Horne** thanked Immediate Past President, Liz Crum, for inspiring her over the years and for her leadership in 2008. President Horne noted that Past President Crum had increased membership - thus increasing funds available for SCWLA endeavors – like the mentoring get-togethers with Women In Law, a very successful DC trip with the Georgia Women’s Bar, and had also set in motion the planning for the upcoming 2009 CLE with Justice O’Connor. President Horne then presented Past President Crum with an engraved crystal obelisk as a token of the organization’s appreciation for her year of service. President Horne noted that she had been a member of SCWLA since law school because she was highly impressed by women attorneys like Bebe Barton, Corky Harper, Liz Crum and Janet Butcher. President Horne stated that SCWLA was an important organization because women needed to help each other make their way in a world where it was obvious that they were unfairly represented. President Horne said that “women taking on leadership roles” was a critical key to making the future better for South Carolina and that women were *different* in their problem solving skills, attention to detail and their compassion and willingness to care for others. President Horne’s goals for 2009 included; Raising the visibility of SCWLA (2009 CLE); highlighting the work and success of women like Toya Green (current Chair of Charleston County School Board) and others; profiling (on the website) the work of women doing

important volunteer work, and generally promoting the work of all women in all their roles and the amazing things they accomplish.

- IV. The Minutes** of the November, 2008 meeting were read, moved and approved.
- V. Treasurer's Report.** Liz Zeck had previously sent reports to everyone via email, but noted that SCWLA's current worth was over \$43,000.00, and an additional \$20,000.00 in dues revenue was expected via the SC Bar, by March. Leftover funds from the DC trip would be split with the Georgia Women's Bar and it was anticipated that our part would be used as a donation towards something to be determined. Additional leftover funds from the DSS project would be spent by Dotsy Helms as part of the upkeep on the visitation/receiving room in Columbia. Liz said that she was still looking into what it would cost to make the documentary usable while we had the funds to pay for it, but that we were in excellent shape to take on this year's CLE with Justice O'Connor-even though we hoped to raise significant funds from firms to assist us with this event. Bebe Barton stated that SCWLA membership would be a prerequisite to attending the 2009 CLE – and that would certainly boost membership revenue.
- VI. Regional Reports.** Natalie Bluestein reported that the Low Country had a 2-hour Ethics CLE at their December lunch meeting. They continued to have monthly lunches on the third *Thursday* of every month and had speakers every other month. Natalie said they had a psychiatrist coming to speak on “bonding,” (relationships with co-workers, family members, and adversarial members of the Bar, etc.) There were also plans for “Done in a Day” service projects (non-profit community service projects on weekends with the kids). The Greenville area of the Upstate – new board member and Regional Representative, Karen Crane reported that her Region started 2008 with a social in January which was well attended and they now had bi-monthly lunches because that seemed to be the best fit for the region. They had already done two ethics CLE's on their own and were planning another one next week. The Midlands. Liz Zeck reported that they continued to have first Thursday lunch meetings with varying speakers, at the Palmetto Club. The Holiday lunch collected items for the DHEC project for children removed from homes where meth was manufactured. A free 2-hour Ethics CLE with Barbie Seymour was held on January 15th, and 81 attended. New Regional Reps were needed in the Grand Strand and the Pee Dee and Kif Cook volunteered to help find one for the Grand Strand.

Media Reports. Website. Liz Crum reported that the Website Committee continued to look into finding an interactive website provider. Liz Crum thanked Eleanor Kellett for her many years of service as *Webmaster*. Mary Hewlette had been Chair of the Website Committee but asked to be relieved of her duties. *Association Magnet* was an expensive website provider (that had made an in-house presentation to SCWLA) and Mary's son had acknowledged that it was of the highest quality – but suggested that we research lots of options to look for a provider that gave great support with low monthly fees. SCWLA was definitely in need of a new website where members could: update their contact info; events could be advertised and reserved for; log in their areas of practice in a directory for members that could also be made available to the general public if individual members were willing, and ; where members had the opportunity to post content for the newsletter with a program that would help our current editor put the newsletter together. Liz Crum suggested that Kelly Jolley, Stephanie Nye and Amie Clifford work together to quickly find some appropriate website providers so we could choose one and move ahead. Stephanie Nye said that she felt it was

vital to SCWLA and the upcoming CLE that we choose a new website provider and get it online as quickly as possible. *Briefcase* Editor, Stephanie Nye reported that when we have the interactive website – the *Briefcase* would no longer be a quarterly publication – its content would be constantly online and changed at varying intervals. Stephanie also said that good photos were essential to the look of the site and she planned to get a professional to get some of the basic photos done. Many features like the event calendar, regional news, and member news would be important parts of the new website – as well as the directory. Liz Crum suggested that the decision for the new site be done via email with the Executive Committee. This motion was made, seconded and approved.

VII. Committees.

a. Membership.

Natalie Bluestein recommended that we continue to invite newly admitted attorneys to join SCWLA. She said that offering free CLE's was still the biggest single draw to gaining new membership. She also said it would be good if the new website allowed us to contact non-member women lawyers – to let them know about our free, member's only CLE's. Someone reminded Natalie that she needed to communicate with other regional reps about the great things she did in the Low Country Region. Someone suggested that the new website should allow members to sign up online for all regional and state-wide events. Natalie noted that their "Done in a Day" community service projects –helped the community and the visibility of SCWLA. Natalie reported that they routinely invited the Women In Law group in Charleston to their monthly lunches. Liz Crum reported that the Columbia Women In Law group had expressed an interest in doing another "meet and greet" reception some time this spring – and that would be handled by the Midlands' Regional Rep. This would be the 3rd time a reception had been held with this group. Liz Crum also stated that Jenny Horne had volunteered to do something with the Midlands' group, with the "Women's Caucus." Liz Zeck suggested that the Women's Caucus be invited to a Midlands lunch meeting, and everyone agreed that we needed to do something with the Women's Caucus, soon.

b. Career Development. Amie Clifford could not attend.

c. 2009 CLE – Bebe Barton. Bebe reported that we would be having our fall 2009 CLE in Charleston with Justice O'Connor as our honored guest. The place would be the Francis Marion Hotel, with the planned dates of: October 1-3, 2009. (Dates have since been revised to start on September 30th). Karen Williams was working on having the Fourth Circuit have a special sitting, in Charleston, to kick off this event. Thursday night would be the "dinner conversation," with Marci Hamilton lined up to be the interviewer- since she was writing a book about Justice O'Connor. Friday morning there would be the CLE with various judges on different panels. Friday's luncheon speaker had not been chosen, yet (but might be Diane West-a potential Supreme Court nominee). Friday night would be the Bissell Reception at the Aquarium. On Saturday there would be a breakfast for the NC Women Lawyers and possibly a golf tournament. The CLE topics had not been set, but hopefully, Justice O'Connor would be involved in 1-2 of those panel discussions. Bebe mentioned that Lindsay Graham had put together a group at the Columbia Law School that would be involved in an effort *to enhance and explore the rule of law in Afghanistan* and as part of this effort, he had invited all five Afghani women judges to visit Washington DC this fall and Bebe thought it would be fabulous to involve these women in our

fall event. The cost of the CLE had not been set, yet. 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.

- d. Supreme Court Trip 2010. Karen Crane volunteered to Chair the 2010 trip. Abigail Walsh was named as her co-chair. Liz Zeck also volunteered to help. Liz Zeck asked for permission to return half the surplus from the previous trip to the Georgia Women's Bar. The use of the balance of the surplus left in our account would be determined after research.
- e. Mini-CLEs. Amie Clifford. Amie could not attend but had upcoming CLE's planned for Greenville and the Sea Island Regions. Liz Zeck reported that once a fee for a specific CLE had been paid to the bar – that same payment covered a repeat of that CLE anywhere in the state. Tara Shurling volunteered to present a 3-hour CLE on PCR appointments for SCWLA. *Bebe mentioned that-: Regarding Rule 608 – and the appointment of attorneys without payment - the Board of Governors has filed a petition with the Supreme Court asking that the Supreme Court state that unless attorneys are going to be paid – they are not going to be appointed.* Bebe noted that she was Chairing the Professional Retention Task Force that seeks reasons for lawyer dissatisfaction. She found that Rule “608,” is a major issue, but so was - sexual and gender discrimination. The board suggested that this area might be a good topic for a CLE panel in the fall.
- f. Awards and Nominating Committee. Bissell Award (private board discussion).
- g. Bylaws. Julie Moose could not attend. Liz Zeck suggested that someone do research on creating a bylaw that would allow e-voting in future elections.
- h. Community Outreach. Tara Shurling suggested that we do an upscale silent auction for the benefit of a charity, during Friday at the fall CLE. Women's shelters would certainly be appropriate recipients. The board all agreed this would be a good idea.
- i. Documentary. Liz Zeck.
- j. The Ladder Group. Amie Clifford could not attend.
- k. Long Range Planning. Marguerite Willis.

VIII. New Business. Liz Crum reported that the Litigation Section of the ABA was meeting for the first time in the South – in Atlanta in April. Larry Kristinik had written and given us the opportunity to be a sponsor (at no cost to us) because they wanted to be able to involve us for diversity purposes, and we would be allowed to set up a display to advertise our upcoming CLE – and we needed to let him know by next Monday. The board moved, seconded and approved accepting this offer.

IX. Member News.

X. Next Board Meetings: April 30, 2009 in Columbia.

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