# SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (COMMITTEE NAME) COMMITTEE REPORT (ANNUAL/QUARTERLY) REPORT FOR 2017 (DATE) SUBMITTED BY: (Name and Title) (email address of submitting member)

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

• (Short and succinct action requested from the board or executive committee i.e. Approval of XXX – be sure to list important dates if necessary)

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### **SUMMARY REPORT**

- <u>Purpose & Function</u>: (what is the general purose and function of this committee why does it exist)
  - Develop...
  - Research and report to the Executive Committee on...
  - Initiate...
- <u>Goals and Respective Activities</u>: (list specific goals established in prior report(s) and note the activities, events held, sponsored or initiated to further those goals)
  - Goal: Promote SCWLA Membership Benefits:
    - Activity:
      - March 3, 2016 Benefits of SCWLA Panel Discussion at USC SoL
  - Goal: Joint Activity with Membership and Public Service Committeees:
    - Activity:
      - March 31, 2016 Sponsor Charleston School of Law WIL's Silent Ga"law" to benefit One80 Place
  - Goal: Encourage interaction between SCWLA and Law School Women's Organizations:
    - Activity:
      - August 15, 2016 USC SoL WIL Happy Hour

• September 22, 2016 Charleston School of Law WIL/SCWLA Happy Hour

2016-2017		Committee
Mary D. LaFave, Co-Chair	Columbia	2017 Membership Committee Co-Chair
Robin Graham	Charleston	2017 Membership Committee Co-Chair
Sheila Bias	Columbia	Board Member, President Elect
Mary Beth Pfister	Columbia	Board Member, Treasurer
Laura Paton	Charleston	Board Member
Kathleen Muthig	Columbia	Committee Member
Catherine Chase	Charleston	Committee Member

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#### RECOMMENDATIONS

For 2017, the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee, in conjunction with the Executive Director, would like to begin or continue a number of initiatives, described below by category:

(this should list the committee goals for the upcoming year/quarter and recommendations on how those goals can best be accomplished – some goals may be left over or continued from the prior year/quarter)

- 1. <u>To increase the benefits and value of membership, the committee recommends</u> <u>SCWLA:</u>
  - a. If the budget permits, hold a reception for new (and existing) members in each region.
  - b. Initiate a panel discussion at the law schools using the liaisons to promote discussion regarding the practice of law and how women can access the ladder left down for them upon graduation by getting involved in SCWLA.
- 2. <u>To increase membership, the committee recommends SCWLA:</u>

- *a.* Have a presence (with a table and Executive Director attending, where SCWLA can distribute information and a beverage) at events where prospective members gather, including the annual conventions of the State bar, the new attorney swearing-in event; and possibly Bridge the Gap seminars.
- *b.* Pursue and welcome back those members who have lost touch, failed to renew dues, etc. to reintroduce the benefits of SCWLA and encourage participation.
- *c*. Hold a recruitment event or reception for graduating 3Ls of USC and CSOL (at the school, at a nearby law firm or some other location) to publicize SCWLA and encourage them to join immediately upon graduation.
- *d*. Continue to explore ways to attract and become more relevant to public attorneys, including judges.

## 3. <u>To increase current member involvement and retention, the committee recommends</u> <u>SCWLA:</u>

- *a.* Implement sending the welcome letter drafted by the committee to each new member who joins (and possibly to each member who renews), communicating benefits of SCWLA membership and ways they can become involved
- *b*. Encourage more social events not necessarily tailored around CLEs which do not always offer a networking or social opportunity.
- 4. <u>To broaden programming and involvement opportunities among the regions, the</u> <u>committee recommends SCWLA:</u>
  - *a*. Continue to implement as a long-term strategy creating and empowering regional boards and encourage joint participation in committees.
  - *b.* Have a conference call or meeting at the beginning of the year where regional representatives and committee chairs meet and plan how they will provide programming of interest in the regions and ensure sufficient funding and support.