

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Board of Directors Meeting
May 19, 2017
Water's Edge Resort & Spa
Westbrook CT

A quorum being present, the Board of Directors meeting was called to order at approximately 12:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Lourdes Ventura, seconded by Irene Villacci to approve the Board of Directors meeting minutes of March 25, 2017. The motion passed.

President's Report

President Flug reported that WBASNY had submitted its updated paperwork to maintain its status with the United Nations, thanks to Fay Paris. She also reported that WBASNY had signed on to LeGal's amicus brief that would define discrimination based on sexual orientation as sex discrimination under Title VII. President Flug reported that a judicial screening would be taking place by June and that Judge Marks had contacted her to report that lactation rooms would be rolled out in the Bronx, Queens, New York, and Kings County Family Courts by the end of June.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ventura reported that WBASNY had gone a little over budget this year, and that WBASNY would review to see how we could improve in subsequent years. She reminded everyone of the importance of increasing membership and on time reporting.

ABA Convention

Amy Saltzman reported that the ABA convention would be August 11, 2017 in NYC. The ABA wants to partner with local bar associations so she encouraged participation. The National Conference of Women Bar Associations will be there at the same time and is giving WBASNY an award for its voter registration.

Habitat Day

Maureen Crush and Kelly Pressler briefly spoke about Habitat Day.

Legislative Update

Sandra Rivera and Christine Weinberg gave a brief update of Lobby Day. More WBASNY members than ever attended Lobby Day and the day was spent visiting mostly Senate Republicans who were in opposition to our legislative priorities. The bills WBASNY lobbied on were: Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act; the Domestic Violence Nuisance; The Reproductive Health Act and; the Domestic Victim's Rights Notice.

S3039 – Problem Solving Courts was presented. Patricia Hennessey, the co-chair of Access to Justice, spoke about this bill and how it would allow those accused of misdemeanors, not felonies, to be sent to specific courts for to address the issues the defendant is facing. A motion was made by Jennifer Brown, seconded by Eileen Malunowicz for WBASNY to support this bill. A discussion ensued. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

S4795 – Solitary Confinement was presented. Patricia Hennessey, representative of the Health and Reproductive Rights committee, spoke about how this bill would prohibit solitary confinement for pregnant women, those who had just given birth eight weeks or earlier, and those whose baby's were in prison with them. A motion was made by Deborah

Rosenthal, seconded by Betsey Jean-Jacques for WBASNY to support this bill. A discussion ensued. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

A1272 – This bill would allow courts and the department of corrections to consider where a prisoners children are located in determining into which prison he/she would be placed. A motion was made by Eileen Malunowicz, seconded by Robin Abramowitz for WBASNY to support this bill. A discussion ensued. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

A5036 – this bill would allow adoptees access to records that are sealed regarding birth parents. WBASNY has voted against this bill in the past. This version is amended but still does not address the issues WBASNY has raised in the past. A motion was made by Annette Hasapidis, seconded by Leyla Kiosse for WBASNY to maintain its opposition to this bill. A discussion ensued. A friendly amendment was made by Eileen Malunowicz, seconded by Mindy Zlotogura, to express opposition for the bill as written but again point out what we would like to see changed in order to support it. The motion passed with the usual abstentions. Annette Hasapidis will write a position paper explaining why we oppose the bill and what we would like to see changed within ten days.

President Flug spoke about the pad party and how EBT cards do not cover necessities like soap, pads, etc. There is pending legislation that will address this so there may be an executive committee call needed soon.

Convention 2017

Co-chairs Dawn Reid-Green and Sue Yellen briefly spoke about Convention.

Judicial Screening

President Flug raised the issue that there will need to be a judicial screening in June. Our rules state that ratings expire in 6 months, which means the ratings from December 2016 will probably expire prior to the new judicial screening. All other bar associations allow their ratings to stand for one year. A motion was made by Dana Salazar, seconded by Jennifer Brown, to change our rules from six months to one year. A discussion ensued. The motion passed with some opposition and the usual abstentions.

Chapter Reports

Year-end Chapter reports were given by the Bronx, Brooklyn, Capital District, Del-Chen-O, Finger Lakes, Mid-Hudson, Nassau, New York, Orange-Sullivan, Queens, Rockland, Rochester, Staten Island, Suffolk, Westchester, and Western New York.

New Business

Dolores Gebhardt opened a discussion re A1533/S6300 which would give pro se litigants access to forensic reports. A discussion ensued. A motion was made by Dolores Gebhardt, seconded by Jennifer Brown to have WBASNY submit an updated position statement on this bill, to add to the prior position statement the support for the revised version of the bill but still demonstrate our full position. A discussion ensued. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

Lourdes Ventura announced that as of June 1, WBASNY's reimbursement will be only via electronic submission.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Rebecca Kennedy, seconded by Kara Cavallo, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly A. Pressler, Recording Secretary