

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Board of Directors Meeting

June 3, 2016

Loews Don CeSar Hotel

St. Pete's Beach, Florida

Minutes

A motion was made by Jacqueline Flug, seconded by Lourdes Ventura to approve the Board of Directors meeting minutes from April 2, 2016. The motion passed.

President's Message

President Andrea Composto welcomed everyone to the Don CeSar and thanked the Board of Directors and delegates for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. She welcomed our guests, members of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Kristin Morris and Sarah Kay (President-Elect of the Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers). President Composto thanked Linda Chiaverini and her team for making the process great.

Cary L. Hall Jr., from USB Financial Services, is sponsoring the luncheon today. WBASNY has worked with UBS for 17 years. UBS is a money manager and advisor to the National Bar Institute.

Treasurer's Report

Leyla Kiosse reported that we are under budget. The expenses through the year remained on target. Total assets are \$273,823.61.

Convention Committee Report

Cheryl Bartow and Jennifer Corona reported on Convention and the success of the attendance in Florida as well as informing the Board of the raffle tickets, CLEs and Convention events.

Chapter Reports

Bronx – The chapter had a great year and finished well: Julianna Margulies wrapped up the year, and membership more than doubled! They do not have enough members to get another delegate but they are close. They have an event concerning the holocaust and the installation is planned for June.

Brooklyn – The chapter gained two delegates this year.

Capital District – Membership is strong at 331. As part of charity efforts this year, Capital District filled backpacks for Albany inner city schools. They raised and collected money for another charity Concerned View, during their holiday party. Their installation dinner is on Tuesday. They are co-sponsoring a CLE on human trafficking in 2 weeks and going to the ballet in July.

Del-Chen-O - At the last meeting Del-Chen-O was ratified and became WBASNY's 19th chapter. Their installation is June 9 and Andrea Composto is attending. They already have over 30 members.

Finger Lakes – The chapter is focusing on getting more women judges on the bench.

Mid-Hudson – The chapter had a very successful installation dinner as well as working hard throughout the year to raise awareness of their chapter and provide meaningful events for their members.

Mid York - Mid York had a good year. They are geographically challenged but doubled their membership. Joan McNichol will be president again next year. Finding a President-elect is an important item on their agenda for next year.

New York – The chapter had a very successful and enjoyable year. An important moment for President Brown's year was starting an LGBT committee at the chapter level, following WBASNY's lead. New York had many programs including CLEs. The program on legal issues facing transgender people in the court system was well attended. The advancement of the status of women in the profession committee has two new co-chairs and has been reinvigorated so New York is doing survey of law firms to find out where women are in big law firms in Manhattan.

Orange-Sullivan - The chapter had a successful year. There were several CLEs and dinners, and there was a record attendance at the annual meeting. They look forward to their upcoming events and welcoming their extra delegate this year.

Queens – They have had community programming, legal programming, and CLEs. The highlight was a successful trip to Cuba.

Rochester – The chapter had a successful year. They brought in new members and focused their year on promoting their members in their various fields.

Rockland – The chapter donated about \$10,000 to charities this year and it was a wonderful achievement for them. The board worked very well together this year and it resulted in a successful year for the chapter.

Staten Island – It was a wonderful year for the chapter. They had a toy drive and a free CLE on family law as well as an annual gender fairness program at a local high school, dating violence and social media.

Suffolk - They had a well-attended membership cocktail party. They are upgrading their website. They will focus on Women's History month, gender equality and how it benefits men. Their installation dinner is June 14th.

Westchester – Member Janet Di Fiore became the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and she recognized WBASNY at her investiture.

Western New York – There were four dinners in the Judges' choice dinner series. The chapter installation dinner is in July, and December 1 is their holiday party.

Lobby Day

President Andrea Composto reported Lobby Day was held on May 10. It was wonderful. Many members attended than in the past. We lobbied from 9 to 4:30 p.m. and had meaningful discussions to advance our legislative priorities. We planted seeds to start grass roots efforts. Legislators know us and who we are and look to us for our positions. It is a pointed, calculated and thoughtful process. Thanks to Sandra Rivera and her whole staff.

New Business

Meg Gifford reported on a fundraiser for Hillary Clinton this week in Manhattan. Meg Gifford sat at a table with Lori Burkweiss and Barbara Ryan and saw lots of WBASNY members. The introductory speaker was Julianna Margulies before Eric Holder, 400 lawyers, and well positioned people. Margulies said half way through why she was speaking: not because she played a lawyer on television but because her grandmother founded the Bronx Women's Bar. She talked about the wonderful Bronx chapter, then said WBASNY was one of the premier organizations she knows about which works to ensure the rights of women and children are protected. Everyone was clapping; it was a great sales moment for WBASNY.

President Composto introduced incoming President Jacqueline Flug. She presented Ms. Flug with her father's "famous" 29 Rules of Life. Ms. Flug is always quoting them so the President gave her a copy of the rules for her upcoming year. The Committee work this year has been incredible and President Composto is grateful for everyone's hard work and dedication. President Composto presented the board with a year-end gift, a WBASNY beach mat, apropos of our convention location.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Adrienne Orbach, seconded by Leyla Kiosse to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre L. Hay
Recording Secretary