

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Executive Committee Meeting
January 27, 2018
Columbia Law School
New York, New York

A quorum being present, the Board of Directors meeting was called to order at approximately 10:05am.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Anne Joynt, seconded by Meryl Neuren to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2017 meeting of the Executive Committee. The motion passed. A motion was made by Joy Thompson, seconded by Margaret Place to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee conference call on December 4, 2017. The motion passed.

President's Report

President Littman offered her condolences to Lenore Kramer for the loss of her mother.

President Littman reported that the previous night she and 30 of our colleagues went to a WBASNY CLE program at Sullivan and Cromwell where a panel consisting of Assemblywoman Monica Wallace, Senator Liz Kruger, and Kelly Owens, the director of women's affairs for the governor spoke, moderated by Sandra Rivera. They spoke about history, workplace issues and where the legislature is going with it, including difficulties and health and safety issues with focus on reproductive rights. The program was full of great insight that you could not get in any other forum. The panelists told us over and over again how valuable WBASNY's input was in the process and that they are teaching their colleagues to come to us as well. She thanked Past President Jaqueline Flug and the organizers of the program.

President Littman reminded the Committee that this week is the 45th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. We mark it with our dedication to continue reproductive freedom.

President Littman reported that the Board Appeal went out in December, and she is gratified to have a good response. The contributions from all the WBASNY Officers and other Board members totaled just over \$3,500. She urged the Committee to help us do better with our board appeal, and to encourage members to give. Any contribution is welcome.

President Littman updated the Board on the status of the Thousand Islands Women's Bar Association. On December 6, she, President-Elect Kolcon, Elaine Avery and Linda Chiaverini went to Watertown to host a welcome event. The attendees are eager to be part of the organization with 21 registered members to date. We expect them to have the required 25 members by the March meeting, and then we can charter the chapter.

President Littman reported that in December she and 25 members went to the USSC to be admitted. We were honored by the presence of 7 of the 9 Justices on the bench and had the privilege of a private audience with Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

President Littman reported that we had a disappointing turn of events with Scholar Lab to establish a platform for video CLEs and to do the taping. They collected revenues which were to be transmitted to us. After doing one CLE in Nassau County they did not transmit the money to us and when pressed they gave us no response. Thanks to Vice President Pressler, who wrote several letters demanding satisfaction, we received the \$250 in revenue that was due to us and \$750 of the money that we spent to set up the platform. We will look for another company that is able to do video taping of future CLEs.

President Littman reported that we will be partnering with Planned Parenthood for a separate lobby day on reproductive rights in Albany on March 13. Participation is contingent upon having people commit to attend. This work is beyond our contract with Sandra Rivera's company. Ms. Rivera will hold a separate training and coordinate with Planned Parenthood to make appointments with the local legislators. We will have to pay Sandra extra money, but if we can get 20 people to sign up then the cost will be worth it.

President Littman reported that the 3rd Department released its decision in Christopher YY vs. Jessica ZZ, a landmark decision in which the marital presumption of legitimacy was extended to apply to same sex couples. This is a step in the right direction for those of us working to secure the rights of families

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Reid-Green reported that we have had income of \$195,248 and expenses of \$194,308, resulting in a surplus income of \$931. But we have a tax bill due in for approximately \$3,100 and a bill from accountant \$5,000. The main source of this bill is from assistance to two chapters to correct their financial records. These expenses will result in a current deficit.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Vice President Pressler reported that we had 35 people participating in a build last year in Newburgh that saved the construction crew weeks of work. This year we want to do the same in several locations around the same time – WBASNY build week or month. Finger Lakes has an event planned for May 11 & 12, so she is looking to do either that weekend or the weekend before. Michelle Merman raised concern about waivers of liability that she believes have to be signed with Habitat. Vice President Pressler agreed to investigate the issue of liability coverage and any waivers that each build will ask participants to sign.

AXA Advisors

Deborah Walker and James Licata presented to the Committee about what their company can provide for WBASNY.

Membership Dues Increase

President Littman presented an anecdotal story to help the group see that WBASNY is not perfect, but we do a lot more right than we do wrong. She stressed that every one of us in this room could've been doing something else today but we're here – volunteering. We're not necessarily doing this for our careers; we're working for a common mission that we deem to be important. She urged everyone to keep in mind that the spirit of what we're doing is to preserve, foster and maintain an organization that we believe in.

President Littman asked for everyone to be cordial at the Board meeting regarding the issue of the dues increase and she discussed the procedure we will follow at the Board meeting regarding the issue. She advised that after the question is called, a roll call vote will be held to ensure voting accuracy.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Margaret Place, seconded by Dawn Reid-Green to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:58 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer P. Brown
Recording Secretary