

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Board of Directors Meeting
September 22, 2018
Columbia Law School
New York, New York

A quorum being present, the Board of Directors' meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Carrie Anne Cavallo, seconded by Kathleen Wright, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2018 Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed.

President's Report

Since we are a professional organization, we will be using Roberts Rules for our meetings. To encourage an atmosphere of respect and collegiality, we are requesting that participants please try to limit side conversations and phone usage as much as possible. As a friendly reminder, while all members and committee chairs are welcome, only WBASNY officers, chapter presidents and chapter delegates have the right to vote. We also ask that all speakers state their names and chapters for the minutes.

President Kolcon discussed the efforts being made to improve our processes and communications. In order to provide greater accessibility and transparency, the EC resource portal has been expanded with a lot of new information. If anyone has suggestions for improvements and/or for any additional resources they would like to see on the portal, please contact your officer liaison.

President Kolcon announced that following a recent EC conference call, WBASNY signed onto Amicus briefs in the United States Court of Appeals for the First and Third Circuits, both of which protect against infringements of women's reproductive rights. She also announced that WBASNY will be introducing a new CLE platform on our website, which allows members and non-members to conveniently access our CLE programs while enabling WBASNY to showcase its members as presenters on a statewide level. In addition to extending the reach of our programs, the platform also will serve as an additional revenue source for the organization.

A heartfelt thank you was extended to Linda Chiaverini and the Solutions Plus team for their support and assistance, both past and future, as well as to Virginia LoPreto and the New York chapter for last night's informative and thought provoking CLE/event on diversity and inclusion.

President Kolcon also thanked all of the committee chairs, past and present, for their dedication, commitment and enthusiasm. Consistent with this year's theme of "Inspire, Promote, Succeed," the officer team is attempting to create opportunities to cultivate and promote future leaders from within WBASNY by enabling them to work with and learn from our more experienced members. It is hoped that this effort will assist in expanding and retaining membership as well as further enhance our pool of available future leaders for the organization. So, you will likely see some new faces along with familiar faces this year, and we encourage you to please reach out if you or someone you know has any suggestions of members who would like to get more involved.

Promotion Project

President Kolcon observed that while some gains and improvements have been made over the years, women still are not moving up into the ranks of power/top echelons in the numbers that are reflective of our participation in the profession, so we need to start promoting our members to obtain more power, influence and control over issues of importance to women. She is encouraging every member to nominate at least one other member for something (e.g., Super Lawyers, Martindale Hubbell ratings, an award, etc.) and to advise Recording Secretary Nickson of those nominations, with a goal of 5000+ nominations for this membership year.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rosenthal briefly reviewed the budget and noted that while there is currently a projected \$17,000 deficit, we are hoping to make it up at our convention in Georgia. There were no questions about the budget.

Professional Ethics Committee

A motion was made by Kim Berg, seconded by Carrey Ann Denefrio, to appoint Deborah Scalise and Randi Proukou as co-chairs of the Professional Ethics Committee. The motion passed.

Matrimonial Committee

Co-Chairs Dolores Gebhardt and Amy Saltzman briefly discussed a new tax law which eventually will need a board vote (it makes maintenance no longer deductible to the payor and taxable to the payee). They also discussed the committee's plans to: prepare a proposed resolution addressing gender bias in the courts; address issues regarding Standards and Goals being unworkable for matrimonial cases; address the unavailability of e-filing across the state; and propose a rule change to increase the caps from \$75,000 to \$200,000 for AFCs.

Fundraising Committee

Simone Freeman, Christine Randazzo and Danielle Strauch were announced as the new Co-Chairs of the Fundraising Committee.

AXA Advisors

Jim and Deb from AXA Advisors made a brief presentation about their history and involvement with WBASNY. They detailed some of the events they have sponsored and asked all chapters to contact them if there is anything they can do to assist us.

Wellness Committee

Kimberly Duguay and Madison Porzio were announced as the new Co-Chairs of the Wellness Committee.

Convention 2019

Convention 2019 will be held at the Westin Spa/Resort, in Savannah, GA from Thursday, May 30, 2019 – Sunday, June 2, 2019. Chapter presidents need to assign a delegate to the committee, which is a leadership opportunity to get involved and make your mark on the organization. Equality is President Elect Hay's theme and we are hoping for some new faces to attend and to present CLEs.

Diversity Committee

Co-Chairs Yacin Barry-Wun and John Coffey discussed the new diversity CLE requirement and requested ideas for a CLE program. In an effort to maximize limited resources, the committee would like to identify a member(s) to be the presenter/speaker. They are targeting an innovative program that will push people out of their comfort zone and challenge longstanding beliefs on various issues. If there are any suggestions, please contact one of the committee co-chairs.

Chapter 3 Committee

Co-Chairs Diane Dwyer and Joan McNichol discussed this new committee that was formed last year and is intended to assist women to thrive as they face life changes. They are seeking ideas and committee members, and hope to address issues such as financial planning, how to wrap up a practice (sell, transition to associate), how to assist retired government employees to transition into private practice, etc. We are very excited about this new committee and the opportunity to provide much needed assistance and guidance to our members.

Women Judges Committee & Equal Opportunity in the Profession Committee: Proposed Model Rule

Ravi Cattry, Liz Kraengel, and the Hon. Joanne Quinones presented a proposed Model Rule to encourage development of junior attorneys. A motion was made by Melinda Grabowski, seconded by Carrie Anne Cavallo, to approve a proposed Memorandum to be sent to Chief Judge DiFiore and the Presiding Justices of the Appellate Divisions requesting that they adopt a rule encouraging development of junior attorneys. A motion was made by Kara Addelman, seconded by Carrie Anne Cavallo, for a friendly amendment to correct various grammatical errors, replace “committee” with “WBASNY” throughout, and to add language allowing a senior attorney to supplement argument by junior attorneys. The friendly amendment was accepted and the motion, as amended, passed with the usual abstentions.

Non-WBASNY Awards

Corresponding Secretary Ventura presented the 3 NYSBA award nominations.

The Root/Stimson Award, for commitment to community and volunteer service: nominee Jill Paperno (GRAWA). Katherine Courtney and Carey Ann Denefrio spoke in support of the nomination. A motion was made by Heather Neu, seconded by Tina Hartwell, to nominate Jill Paperno for the NYSBA Root/Stimson award. The motion passed.

The Ruth C. Schapiro Award, for a noteworthy contribution to addressing the concerns of women: nominee Deborah Scalise (Westchester). Kim Berg spoke in support of the nomination. A motion was made by Kim Berg, seconded by Past President Baldwin Littman, to nominate Deborah Scalise for the NYSBA Ruth G. Schapiro award. The motion passed.

The Haywood Burns Award, for an individual who has contributed to NYS in a manner reflecting commitment to the struggle for justice and for civil rights and the empowerment of the powerless: nominees Lisa Waller (Bronx), Sally Curran (Central) and Kim Berg (Westchester). Lisa Licata spoke in support of the Waller nomination, Nicole Marlow Jones and Colleen Gibbons spoke in support of the Curran nomination, and Robin Carton spoke in support of the Berg nomination.¹ The Waller nomination was withdrawn. A motion was made by Nicole Marlow Jones, seconded by Peggy Brady, to nominate Sally Curran for the NYSBA Hayward-Burns award. A motion was made by Past President Baldwin Littman, seconded by Heather Neu, for a friendly amendment to vote between Kim Berg and Sally Curran. The amendment was accepted. A vote was taken and Curran was selected as the nominee. Past President Baldwin Littman abstained.

President Kolcon reminded the Chapter for each nominee that the chapter needs to put the final submission package together and submit it to the NYSBA with a CC to President Kolcon and Corresponding Secretary Ventura. In the event that the NYSBA is reconsidering WBASNY’s past nominees for any of these awards, President Kolcon will send a letter commending our prior nominee(s) as well.

Nominations Committee

Past President Baldwin Littman announced the results of the election of chairs: Elaine Avery (Brooklyn), Myra Freed (New York) and Alexandra Zervopoulos (Queens).

¹ There was a discussion regarding the timeliness of the Berg nomination (the materials were submitted by the chapter prior to the deadline, but apparently were not received by the WBASNY Awards email box). A motion was made by John Coffey, seconded by the Hon. Joanne Quinones, to include Berg as a candidate to be considered for the WBASNY nomination again this year (Berg was WBASNY’s nominee last year). The motion passed.

Legislation Committee

Co-Chairs Marea Wachsman, Jennifer Echevarria and Christine Wienberg briefly discussed some of our legislative priorities for this year, including support of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). A motion was made by Heather Neu, seconded by Susan Pollock, to continue supporting the VAWA. The motion passed with the usual abstentions. Chapters also were reminded of the new communications policy of contacting Vice President Pressler first with any proposed legislation or questions so we can try to streamline our process and avoid confusion and duplication of efforts.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa H. Nickson
Recording Secretary