

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
Board of Directors Meeting
November 17, 2018
Syracuse Law School
Syracuse, New York

A quorum being present, the Board of Directors' meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Katherine Courtney, seconded by Hon. Joanne Quinones, to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2018 Board of Directors meeting. The motion passed.

President's Report

President Kolcon welcomed everyone to Syracuse and extended our sincere gratitude to Nicole Marlow-Jones and the Central Chapter for hosting last night's dinner. It was a lovely event that provided all who attended with an opportunity to network and establish relationships amongst and between the various chapters. President Kolcon also thanked Solutions Plus and Linda Chiaverini for going above and beyond in finding a way to reproduce our meeting materials last night after the inclement weather prevented our original materials from getting to Syracuse.

President Kolcon also extended congratulations to all WBASNY members who were elected to office, especially our own Corresponding Secretary, Lourdes Ventura, who was elected as a Judge of the Civil Court in Queens County. President Kolcon also extended congratulations to all members who ran for office this year and each chapter was encouraged to recognize its members who sought elected office this election cycle.

On Election Day, President Kolcon posted an article to WBASNY's LinkedIn Page on the history of the Women Airforce Service Pilots ("WASP"). President Kolcon noted that in the face of current efforts to erase women's participation in history, our efforts to preserve and write our own history are more important than ever. In sync with that idea, Vice President Thompson recently invested a substantial amount of effort and time into coordinating and revising our WBASNY history, which has now been posted on our website, and we are extremely grateful for her contribution.

President Kolcon advised that WBASNY's Amicus Curiae Committee has been very active. Prior to our September Board meeting, WBASNY signed onto two amicus curiae briefs protecting reproductive rights, and shortly after the September meeting, WBASNY signed onto an amicus curiae brief concerning Title IX, where a university was arguing that it could not be liable for deliberate indifference to complaints of sexual assault, despite their lack of investigation, because the assaults did not happen a second time. Participating as amicus curiae is a significant way in which WBASNY supports its mission and we are very grateful to all of our committees who work tirelessly to allow us to contribute to these legal discussions in such a meaningful way.

President Kolcon announced a very exciting development in our CLE Committee – WBASNY's new online CLE platform. While we have seven programs currently, we would love to put additional content online, so all substantive committees and chapters were encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to highlight their members' expertise and reach a broader audience. All attendees also were asked to get the word out about our new online platform, as the more people that turn to us as a CLE resource provides us with more visibility as well as additional income to support our mission. Please contact Recording

Secretary Nickson, the CLE Officer Liaison, with any questions on how to arrange for video recording of your next CLE program. President Kolcon also thanked Recording Secretary Nickson for attending the NYS CLE Board accreditation conference on behalf of WBASNY.

WBASNY is continuing with the Promotion Project, whereby we are asking every member to promote/nominate another member for an award, recognition or rating with a goal of 5000 nominations. The Promotion Project is an easy way to participate in and support members of WBASNY, so please encourage members to nominate someone and to email Recording Secretary Nickson upon doing so.

Another way to promote WBASNY is to wear our pins and/or logo when attending events, whether sponsored by WBASNY or any other organization. President Kolcon thanked President-Elect Hay and Vice President Pressler for their efforts in securing intellectual property protection for our logo. President Kolcon also announced our newly formed Intellectual Property Committee, which is chaired by Janet Cord and Anne Marie Bowler. The IP committee is off to a great start and has brought in a lot of new members already.

President Kolcon thanked President-Elect Hay for attending the Governor's breakfast on pay equity on behalf of WBASNY, and to those members who participated in WBASNY's habitat for humanity event on November 3, 2018. It was WBASNY's third year participating and we have nominated this program for the NYSBA innovation award.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rosenthal shared the budget and requested that any delinquent reports be turned in as soon as possible. There was a gentle reminder to please submit reimbursement requests and cash the reimbursement checks quickly, as well as a reminder that there is no reimbursement for tips. With regard to the Convention budget, Treasurer Rosenthal noted that last year's convention was extremely successful. This year's budget projects \$30,000 in convention profit, so please attend to make convention successful.

Bank Resolution

Treasurer Rosenthal presented three (3) resolutions to put money into short term CDs. A motion was made by Myra Freed, seconded by Jennifer Brown, to approve the proposed resolutions. The motion passed with the usual abstentions.

Advisory Committee

Jaci Flug announced that Betty Weinberg Ellerin, a co-founder of WBASNY and a trailblazer for women in the legal profession, will be celebrating her 90th birthday this year. So, WBASNY will be hosting a "90 and Never Better" event in her honor on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at the Water Club in NYC. The event will be limited to 226 people, so watch for the invitation and RSVP quickly if you want to attend.

New York State Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts

President Kolcon advised that there is a new statewide survey being sent out which she expects many of our members to receive. The last survey was done over 30 years ago and is missing a lot of topics, so it is very important that our members who receive the survey complete it in order for women's voices be heard. Our participation is the best way to ensure that the Committee receive a full and fair picture of the information that is currently available.

Convention 2019

Co-Chairs Beth Solek and Terry Girolamo reminded that convention will be from May 30, 2019 to June 2, 2019 at the Savannah Westin. The theme is equality and they are currently assessing speaker possibilities, which include Stacy Adams, Julianna Margulies and Tea Leone. The committee is seeking input on excursions and CLEs, especially for ethics/diversity/equality.

International Women's Rights Committee

Co-Chair Fay Parris noted the committee's efforts to upgrade our online profile with three events: (1) the Commission on the Status of Women conference (#63) at the UN, being held between March 11, 2019 to March 22, 2019, which will be addressing Social Empowerment Systems and specifically asylum seekers who are victims of domestic violence; (2) a brunch panel addressing the girl ambassador program, where participants will detail their trips to Ghana and other parts of the world; and (3) an event addressing women in the media and what media can do to empower women and girls. It also was noted that since WBASNY does not have an immigration committee, these events will provide an avenue for WBASNY and its members to participate in and assist with the immigration crisis.

Fundraising Committee

Co-Chair Christina Randazzo discussed the committee's efforts to increase our monetary resources through CLEs and investments as well as looking at additional ways to raise funds to advance our mission. #WBASNY Gives was created in the spirit of giving Tuesday and we are encouraging all members to give \$5 (or more if you wish) to ensure WBASNY has sufficient resources to promote our mission (donations are not tax deductible). We also are seeking firm and corporate sponsors, so if you have any suggestions, please let someone on the committee know.

President Kolcon noted that WBASNY Gives is different than the Board Appeal (which will still come in January). #WBASNY Gives is intended to reach all members and supporters, not just current board members, so please spread the word.

Legislation Committee

Vice President Pressler, the officer liaison to the legislative committee, presented on behalf of the committee (unfortunately the co-chairs were unable to attend and our lobbyist had to leave). The committee is optimistic that we can get a lot done this year.

The Hon. Lisa Bloch Rodwin, Erie County Family Court Judge, presented former senate bill number 7886A (which is being reintroduced in January) for our consideration. The bill would allow family court judges to issue orders of protection for up to five (5) years, thereby mirroring the orders of protection for family violence in criminal court. WBASNY's Family and Matrimonial, Children's Rights, Domestic Violence and Legislative committees all support the bill. The motion to support the bill carried with the usual abstentions.

Vice President Pressler announces that WBASNY has five (5) legislative priorities this year: (1) the Equal Rights Amendment, which seeks to amend the NYS constitution to add sex and sexual orientation as protected classes; (2) the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act, which we supported last year; (3) the Reproductive Health Act, which we have previously supported; (4) the Pay Equity Act; and (5) Sex Trafficking (we voted on 5 bills last year and they may need support from WBASNY to push them because there may not be any other institutional support).

A motion was made by Jaci Flug, seconded by Anna Smith, to approve of the five legislative priorities. The motion carried with the usual abstentions.

With regard to raising our voices louder, we are seeking volunteers for Lobby Day and lobby training. There are restrictions on what we can do as an organization due to new laws which take effect in January and we are awaiting clearer guidelines from Sandra before we proceed. In the meantime, WBASNY can issue press releases identifying what our priorities are on LinkedIn, FB, Twitter, etc.

Many thanks were expressed to all who were involved in developing our legislative priorities.

New Business

Committee reports:

Environmental Law: Co-Chair Susan Brock advised that the committee is working on some items to bring to the Board in January, including: a proposed environmental Bill of Rights to amend constitution to provide for clean air, water, and a healthful environment; a ban on phosphate, which is a pesticide harmful to development and the nervous systems of children and pregnant women/fetuses; a requirement for manufacturers of cleaning products to disclose all compounds contained within them; and Climate and Community Protection Acts, which address greenhouse gas emissions and renewable energy.

Criminal Law: Heather Kalachman from Nassau chapter (for Jill Paperno) advised that the committee is working on a number of items, including: an initiative to encourage women attorneys to take on greater roles in criminal matters; a CLE on how to become a judge; preparation of a google document to expound upon state, county, city rules to be a resource for people who want to be a judge so that they can see the election rules for each jurisdiction; creating mentoring relationships with judiciary; and a CLE on “raise the age” and the new youth court component to see how different counties are handling the issues presented.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Jennifer Brown, seconded by Dawn Lott, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa H. Nickson
Recording Secretary