

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Executive Committee Meeting

September 22, 2018

Columbia Law School

New York, New York

A quorum being present, the Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 10:13 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Maureen Crush, seconded by Carrie Anne Cavallo, to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2018 Executive Committee meeting. The motion passed.

President's Report

In an effort to raise the profile of WBASNY, its chapters and its members, President Kolcon encouraged all chapters to publicize their events, activities, initiatives, news items and member accomplishments in the WBASNY Newsletter, calendar, website, Facebook and LinkedIn pages, along with local newspapers, bar bulletins, etc. In addition to highlighting accomplishments, chapters can compile those submissions to be used as part of their written year-end report.

There was a brief discussion of the Amicus process, including the difficulties presented by the short deadlines and the need to vote while on the EC call. President Kolcon thanked all EC Committee members for scrambling to make the September 20, 2018 call happen and for their participation in this very important WBASNY process.

In response to recent inquiries regarding "what WBASNY was doing" about various national issues, President Kolcon led a discussion around whether the EC Committee thought WBASNY should be taking positions on federal/national issues, and if so, whether a process for doing so needs to be created. As part of the discussion, it was noted that WBASNY members/chapters also are members of the National Conference of Women's Bar Associations, which may provide an avenue for participation in national/federal issues if the EC Committee determines that it is outside of the scope of WBASNY's mission as a statewide organization. Vice President Thompson agreed to coordinate increased participation with the NCWBA, and Chapter Presidents Virginia LoPreto and Maureen Crush volunteered to look into the creation of a taskforce to establish a process for addressing national issues, including drafting a bylaw if necessary. In the meantime, in the event that a chapter or member would like WBASNY to take action on any item, it would be very much appreciated if the chapter/member would submit a proposal to WBASNY for its consideration so that the EC and the Board may better analyze and respond to those requests.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rosenthal issued a friendly reminder to all attendees that travel reimbursement requests must be made within 45 days and cannot include tips. She also reviewed the budget and explained that while there is currently a projected \$17,000 deficit, we are hoping to make that up at convention. There were no questions regarding the budget.

Nominations Task Force

President Kolcon advised that the Nominations Task Force is currently gathering information and establishing a process for how it will go about doing its work. All WBASNY members are entitled to give comments and/or opinions on the subject and are encouraged to reach out to any of the task force members to do so. While they are always happy to answer questions and assist where they can, WBASNY's officers are not involved in the task force and do not have any direct information regarding the task force's activities. So, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact any of the task force members and they will be happy to speak with you.

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.

Personality Types and Effective Communication

Vice President Pressler led an interesting and interactive presentation about the qualities of a good leader. She also provided strategies and tools for identifying what type of leader you are and for becoming a better leader.

Chapter Successes and Challenges to Date

President Kolcon led a group discussion regarding any problems/concerns the chapters may be facing and the group brainstormed ideas for addressing them. The participants shared many excellent insights and ideas and chapters were able to benefit from the collective wisdom and experiences of their fellow chapters.

New Business

A motion was made by Maureen Crush, seconded by Katherine Courtney, to retain Jacobowitz and Gubits LLP to represent WBASNY in connection with intellectual property/trademark registration at no expense to WBASNY other than the required fees of the agency. The motion passed.

In an effort to streamline communications, minimize confusion and avoid duplication of efforts, there is a new legislative protocol whereby requests for review of legislation and/or questions concerning legislation will be addressed to Vice President Pressler (officer liaison to the committee) with a CC to the Legislative Committee co-chairs. Vice President Pressler will then forward the legislation to any relevant substantive committees and deliver the package containing the substantive committees' responses to the co-chairs. In order to avoid having to address the same questions multiple times, it is respectfully requested that the chapters not reach out to Sandra directly. Instead, we are asking the chapters to direct any questions to Vice President Pressler so that she may discuss them with Sandra on a collective basis.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Treasurer Rosenthal, seconded by Past President Baldwin Littman, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa H. Nickson
Recording Secretary