

WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Board of Directors Meeting

September 21, 2019

Columbia Law School, New York, NY

A quorum being present, the Board of Directors Meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Carrie Anne Cavallo, seconded by Danielle Bernard, to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting on May 31, 2019. The motion passed.

President's Report

President Hay noted that we have the largest number of attendees for a September Board of Directors meeting. First time attendees were introduced.

President Hay spoke of the success of Convention 2019. As a response to a number of terrific CLEs, WBASNY has created 4 new committees.

President Hay outlined the success of WBASNY's legislative priorities in the most recent legislative session.

President Hay discussed a number of celebrations throughout WBASNY, including: Immediate Past President Greta Kolcon recently accepting NCWBA's Outstanding Member Program Award for the Promotion Project at its meeting in San Francisco; Majorie Karowe, WBASNY Past President, will be awarded the Officers' Medal, also known as the Doris S. Hoffman Medal, for outstanding leadership; and Ellen Holtzman, WBASNY Past President, will be appointed to the Rockland County Women Leaders Hall of Fame. Sadly, WBASNY mourns the passing of Sandy Katz, WBASNY Past President and Doris S. Hoffman Medal winner, and WBASNY will be making a donation to JALBCA in her honor.

Professional Ethics Committee

A motion was made by Mindy Zlogogura, seconded by Helene Blank, to appoint Deborah Scalise and Natoya McGhie as co-chairs of the Professional Ethics Committee. The motion passed. Deborah Scalise reported that the committee will be converting the "ethics hotline" to email and encouraged members to use the service.

Nominations Committee

Immediate Past President Greta Kolcon announced that the Nominations Committee had elected its three co-chairs. Under the new guidelines, the co-chairs will have staggered terms. Maureen Crush was elected for a 3-year term; Hon. Marilyn O'Connor was elected for a 2-year term; and Hon. Marguerite Grays was elected for a 1-year term.

Special Committees

A motion was made by Deborah Scalise, seconded by Amy Littman to create four new committees, i.e. ERA/Women's Civil Rights, Human Trafficking, Immigration, and Education/Title IX, and to allow the President to appoint chairs pursuant to the WBASNY By-Laws. The motion passed, with 1 abstention.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kelly Pressler reported that as of September 20, 2019, WBASNY had total assets of \$248,670.91. Treasurer Pressler presented WBASNY's 2019-2020 budget. She noted that a deficit of approximately \$15,000 is anticipated, but that such is normal and Convention has historically covered any gap. She also reported that

Convention 2019 brought in a profit of \$19,381.52, with approximately \$3,400 in invoices still to be collected.

Treasurer Pressler acknowledged the great job by chapter treasurers. She noted four chapters have year-end reports outstanding, and these chapters have been contacted, but she is optimistic WBASNY will not have to file an extension to file taxes.

Bank OZK

Bridget Brown-Williams presented information about Bank OZK and what services are available for WBASNY members.

Equal Means Equal

Wendy Murphy presented information regarding the importance of the Equal Rights Amendment to include women as a protected class and ensure equal status.

Non-WBASNY Awards

President Elect Joy Thompson noted that WBASNY received five nominations for five non-WBASNY awards: Lisa Licata, Bronx, for the ABA Margaret Brent Award; Kim Berg, Westchester for the American Inns of Court Professionalism in the Second Circuit; Amy Schwartz-Wallace, Rochester for the NYSBA Haywood Burns Award; Lisa Denig, Westchester, for the NYSBA Root Stimson Award; and Hon. Roslyn Richter, New York, for the NYSBA Ruth G. Schapiro Memorial Award. A motion was made by Janette Cortes-Gomez, seconded by Shari Lee Sugarman to accept these nominations. The motion passed.

Virginia LoPreto presented a nomination of Hon. Lisa Sokoloff for the NYSBA Kay Crawford Murray Memorial Award. A motion was made by Carrie Ann Cavallo, seconded by Mindy Zlotogura to accept the nomination. The motion passed.

Equal Opportunity in the Profession and ERA/Women's Civil Rights Committees

Equal Opportunity in the Profession Co-chairs Elizabeth Kraengel and Ravi Cattray announced WBASNY's Celebration of Women's Suffrage event in Seneca Falls on November 15, 2019.

ERA/Women's Civil Rights Committee Co-chair Jennifer Echevarria announced that a goal of the committee is the passage of a New York State-level ERA and asked members for participation on the committee.

Legislation Committee

Co-Chairs Marea Wachsman and Christine Wienberg noted the accomplishment of a great number of WBASNY legislative priorities in the most recent legislative session, including passage of the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act and the Reproductive Health Act.

They noted the Committee will present legislative priorities for 2019-2020 for a Board vote at the November meeting. Potential priorities include passing a state-level ERA, amending the new bail reform law, and protections regarding human trafficking, environment, and immigration. The co-chairs also announced that the committee has formed working groups for the Child Parent Security Act and the bill allowing access to forensic evaluation reports by pro se litigants. Legislative consultant Sandra Rivera encouraged participation from all substantive committees in the legislation review process.

President Hay announced that WBASNY is developing trainings regarding JCOPE and to keep records of any lobbying activity in the meantime.

Wellness Committee

Co-Chairs Madison Porzio and Lisa Noroian discussed the findings of the NYSBA Working Group on Attorney

Mental Health's report regarding question 34 on the New York State bar admission application, which asks applicants about their mental health. A motion was made by Mindy Zlotogura, seconded by Meryl Schwartz to support the removal of question 34 on New York's bar admission application. The motion passed, with 8 abstentions.

Human Trafficking Committee

Co-chairs Alyssa Talanker and Samantha Breakstone introduced their new committee and explained the committee's purpose and agenda. They noted they will be contacting chapter presidents for a liaison to the committee.

Fundraising Committee

Co-Chair Simone Freeman explained that this committee is designed to assist WBASNY in fundraising as well as to provide support for chapters in their fundraising efforts. She encouraged participation in #WBASNYGives in any amount, noting the campaign's initial goal is \$5,000 which is about \$1 per member.

Convention 2020 Committee

Co-chair Carrie Anne Cavallo and Jawan Finley discussed Convention 2020 at the Watkins Glen Harbor Hotel May 28-31, 2020. The Committee is seeking a liaison from every chapter and is challenging every chapter to provide either a door prize, item for the swag bag, or to be asponsor. The Co-Chairs also noted that there is limited block of only 100 rooms.

International Women's Rights Committee

Co-Chair Fay Parris announced an ambitious agenda for 2019-2020, which includes participation in a symposium on women's issues around the 20th anniversary of the Beijing Conference. She also announced preliminary plans for a WBASNY travel opportunity to Italy.

Voter Registration Drive

Co-chair Vanessa Glushefski asked each chapter to hold a voter registration event and provided important information regarding the process.

New Business

Immigration Co-Chair Jennifer Echevarria presented for approval the immigration position statement included in the Board meeting materials which in sum and substance condemned the treatment of detained families, particularly women and children. A motion was made by Amy Saltzman, seconded by Shari Gordon to approve the statement. The motion passed, with 8 abstentions.

Motion to Adjourn

A motion was made by Hon. Andrea Phoenix, seconded by Carrie Anne Cavallo, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Neu
Recording Secretary