

**Women and the Law Council Meeting**  
**April 14, 2007 Austin, Texas**

Attending in person:

Carmen Samaniego, Chair  
Tonya Carter, Chair-Elect  
Susan Hightower, Secretary  
Ralph Brock, Treasurer  
Mara Asya Blatt, Immediate Past Chair  
Carol Jendrzey, Newsletter Editor  
Chantel Crews, Council Member, El Paso  
Teri Danish, Council Member, Brownsville  
Hon. Carolyn Moore, Council Member, Lubbock

Attending by phone:

Shannon Dacus, Vice-Chair  
Melissa Dorman, Council Member, Dallas  
Ronnie Harrison, Council Member, Houston  
Andrea Johnson, Council Member, Houston

Excused absences:

Kathy Cannon, Chronologist  
Hon. Deanie King, Council Member, Corpus Christi  
Collynn Peddie, Council Member, Houston  
Judy Ney, Judicial Liaison

Absent:

Maribel Roldan, Council Member, Brownsville

The meeting was convened at 10 a.m.

Minutes: Carol moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting, Carmen seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report was accepted; the balance is nearly \$12,000.

Web site: The most recent newsletters and the new brochures will be added to the web site. Ralph reported that he has been able to update and renew the section's domain name registrations.

**Budget:** There was discussion of Tonya's updates to the web site and whether the section could afford to hire someone to update the web site, which is a significant amount of work. Council members were encouraged to consider who might be able to help with the web site next year. Mara will contact the State Bar's web liaison to determine the best way to update the web site.

**Listserv:** Mara will inquire with the Bar whether there is a problem with the listserv, because many council members reported that they are not receiving e-mails sent to the section listserv.

**T-shirts and merchandise:** Tonya brought some of the new T-shirts, which are beautiful. They will be added to the web site, and the treasurer will be the contact for orders.

Newsletter: There was discussion why the most recent newsletter was not disseminated by the Bar. Carmen urged submissions for the April newsletter. Shannon reported that she had permission to reprint relevant Texas Bar articles and will review and send one to Carol. Andrea is submitting an article on the diversity forum. Carmen asked for ideas to get more newsletter submissions. Carol will include a “thank you” to Fulbright & Jaworski LLP for donating use of a conference room for this section meeting while the State Bar office is remodeled.

CLE: Mara is sending a blurb about the CLE for inclusion in the newsletter and on the web site. Carmen and Mara reported on the upcoming CLE programs in San Antonio and El Paso, and Teri reported that she is hoping to do the same program in Brownsville in June. Carmen will renew the State Bar CLE approval for the program. The council suggested charging \$20 for the CLE program (free to medical professionals and other non-lawyers). Tonya will add information about the CLE programs to the web site.

Annual Meeting:

**Attendance:** Carmen will circulate a list of section members, and asked that each council member contact five local members and ask them to attend the annual meeting.

**Awards:** The council voted unanimously to award the Ma’at Justice Award to ileta A. Sumner of San Antonio and the Sarah T. Hughes award to U.S. Magistrate Judge Judith Guthrie of Tyler. April 20 is the deadline to give this information to the Bar.

Shannon will notify Judge Guthrie that she has won the award and Carmen will notify ileta Sumner.

**Diversity forum:** Andrea and Carmen reported the current lineup for the forum.

**Book sale:** Ronnie reported on the book sale. Many books have been donated. Thomson West is donating pink (or multiple color) book bags with the section name on them. The cost will remain \$20 per bag. The Texas Advocacy Project (formerly the Women’s Advocacy Project) will remain the recipient of funds raised.

**Volunteers:** Carmen noted that volunteers are needed to work the book sale and the section table in the Hall of Sections both Thursday and Friday during the annual meeting. She will send an e-mail requesting sign-up.

**New council:** Mara will write a blast e-mail calling for council members.

The unexpired term of Maribel Roldan will be filled as part of the new slate during the annual meeting.

Membership:

**Brochure:** The council reviewed the sample brochures, and Shannon outlined two different price quotes from printers. Minor revisions to the text and graphics were agreed. Chantel moved to order 5,000 brochures, and Teri seconded. Tonya said she would check pricing for the same number of brochures with her friend who has printed the section T-shirts. The council agreed that they would prefer to use Tonya's friend if her pricing is competitive with Overnight Prints.com.

Teri moved that the budget be amended to approve \$600 for brochures, including design costs, and Chantel seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tonya and Shannon agreed to coordinate, use the lower bidder, and have the brochures printed in time for the annual meeting.

**Recruitment:** Tonya read an e-mail from a new member noting that she had received nothing from the group since she joined, and that there had been no updates to the section web site. The council discussed ways to communicate with and involve new members. Tonya suggested a "welcome new members" letter. Mara suggested having an e-mail generated automatically for people who join through the State Bar web site. Because we can't distinguish between new and renewing members, the e-mail should welcome members "whether you are new or renewing" and let them know about upcoming events. Mara will draft an e-mail to send as a blast to all section members, including a note that members can send news items that will be put on the web site.

Chronology: Carmen reported that Kathy is organizing the chronology committee materials and is ready to pass the baton to a new chronologist. The first tasks are to (1) figure out what we have; (2) find a repository; (3) get a grant from the Texas Bar Foundation; (4) catalog the archive; and (5) put it on CD and the web.

Susan agreed to contact Kathy to see what we have and determine next steps.

Judicial Liaison: Melissa agreed to help Judy send a letter to judges inviting them to our annual meeting.

Dinner: Carol moved and Mara seconded for the section to pay \$120 to sponsor an attendee on behalf of the section to the Texas Supreme Court Historical Society dinner honoring Women and the Law on June 1 in Austin. The motion was approved unanimously, and Susan volunteered to attend on the section's behalf. If Susan has a work conflict, she will contact Carmen to attend.