



Minutes of March Meeting of Women and the Law Section
State Bar of Texas
April 16, 2020
Teleconference

Nikki Chargois-Allen, Chair, called the April board meeting of the Women and the Law Section to order at 11:59 A.M. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Council members in attendance via telephone: Nikki Chargois-Allen, Kirby Drake, Deborah Race, Leigh Hunt Goodson, Judy Ney, Denise Alex, Danae Benton, Teresa Schiller, Betsy Johnson, Sylvia Lopez-Shafer, Itzel Martinez, Nicole Voyles, Elizabeth Cantu, Nadia Medrano, Tuhina Sharma and Sharon Hemphill.

Nikki welcomed new Council member, Nadia Medrano.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes of the March 26, 2020 teleconference which had been previously emailed to the Council for review were presented. Deborah Race moved to approve the minutes with a second by Denise Alex. The minutes were approved as presented unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Judy Ney reported \$91,786.64 in available funds at the end of March. There had been \$300 in outstanding bills that have since been approved to be paid. Judy explained that the recent charge for about \$285 was an annual "maintenance fee" for the CLE's to Global Exchange. Denise Alex moved to accept the Treasurer's Report with a second by Elizabeth Cantu. The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership. Deborah Race reported a total of 1,308 members. 444 new members, and 323 non-renewals. Membership is on an upward swing.

CLE Report. Kirby Drake reported that the April CLE went well. The next CLE is scheduled May 6th and will be covering employment law. It will discuss things such as exemptions, sick leave, employment issues, and benefits moving forward.

Nikki encouraged members to send Kirby ideas and speaker suggestions for future CLEs. She and Kirby both think it's a good idea to somehow reach out to past participants for ideas of topics they would enjoy learning more about.

Awards Committee. Deborah Race reports one nomination for the “Sarah T. Hughes Award”. This award was described as a “lifetime achievement” type of award for women who have paved a way in their careers. Someone who has received recognition and a high degree of excellence that has opened doors for others.

The “Louise Raggio Award” still has no nominations. This award is for women who have contributed to the furtherance of justice in society and had a large contribution to their community for law professions.

SBOT has sent an email blast out about it. Nikki suggested using the nomination if it is good, but if needed, the committee could submit a nomination for the award.

Deborah will keep us posted as we approach the May 5th deadline.

Newsletter/Website. Danae Benton reported that the newsletter will be going out this week with the two winning articles and an update on past events. She is still in the process of getting the website together. Teresa will be assisting her. She asks the members continue sending content for the site and newsletter.

Scholarship Program. Teresa reported that the two winning articles were published in the Texas Bar Blog and in the WAL newsletter. The articles were site checked and the Deans of the respective law schools were notified of the winning articles. She thanked her committee for all of their assistance.

Social Media. Itzel Martinez says that the Instagram followers have gone from 151 to 167. She says the page is averaging 10-12 new followers per month. She has recently taken a “content creating” course to help. She still plans to make the #WCW posts and work tips. She has mostly been using Instagram but would like to transition the social media focus to LinkedIn. She asked the Council to continue sending practice ‘tips and tricks’ and nominations for WCW. She would like to work with Deborah bringing attention to joining for the new year.

Kirby will send the information for the May CLE to have published on the social media pages.

Nikki will send the Board members to be featured in WCW and asked Nadia to send her picture to be added to the website.

Discussion was held regarding the use of Over (Nadia has access and offered to assist Itzel in content creation) and Canva (recommended by Danae) for design content.

Teresa will send the information and Itzel will reach out to the two winners of the scholarship for their pictures to post with their articles.

Preparation for Annual CLE. As of now, the annual meeting will be held as scheduled in June until decided otherwise by SBOT. Nikki encouraged everyone who is thinking of attending to go ahead and reserve their rooms. Rooms tend to go quickly. The Council will reimburse attending members for travel and hotel costs. The Council will not reimburse for CLE. Registration is open until May 25th.

At the reception, Elizabeth Cantu is planning to have the LCD screen package that accommodates up to 50 people. The package includes cocktail tables, but AV items like microphones will need

to be specifically requested prior to the event. There will be a taco adobo bar (heavy hors d'oeuvres), some free wine, and a cash bar. Nikki would still like to have some music but is waiting until closer to the event to book anything. She encouraged anyone with DJ contacts to let her know so that she can start working on that.

Chronologist. Natasha was not present but Nikki reported that she is working on a chronology PowerPoint and asks Council to send information on past events, presidents, board members, etc. to her. It was suggested by Judy that this be projected in the hall of sections during the annual meeting. Nikki will reach out to SBOT to confirm availability.

Pro Bono Workgroup. No report. Nikki would like to continue the collaboration with the Law Related Education Committee with Teresa as Chair next year.

Upcoming Meeting Dates and Events. The next meeting will be held on May 21, 2020 via Zoom videoconference.

Old Business. No additional old business.

New Business. Anyone desiring to nominate a new Council member or to remain on the Board after term expiration or moving up to an officer role, please reach out to Nikki or Teresa.

No further business was declared and Deborah Race moved to adjourn the meeting, with a second by Denise Alex. The meeting was adjourned at 12:44 p.m.