



Minutes of December Meeting of Women and the Law Section  
State Bar of Texas  
December 19, 2019  
Teleconference

Nikki Chargois-Allen, Chair, called the December board meeting of the Women and the Law Section to order at 11:02 A.M. after it was determined that a quorum was present.

Council members in attendance: Nikki Chargois-Allen, Itzel Martinez, Sharon Hemphill, Deborah Race, Judy Ney, Leigh Hunt Goodson, Sylvia Lopez-Shafer, Tuhina Sharma, Danae Benton, Summer Olmos, and Elizabeth Cantu.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES/SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The minutes of the October 26, 2019 teleconference which had been previously emailed to the Council for review were presented. Deborah Race moved to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Danae Benton. The minutes were approved as presented unanimously.

The minutes of the November 14, 2019 teleconference which had been previously emailed to the Council for review were presented. Judy Ney moved to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Teresa Schiller. The minutes were approved as presented unanimously.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Judy Ney presented the October Treasurer's report, which had been previously emailed to the Council for review. Danae Benton moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and approve the FY 19-20 budget with a second by Deborah Race. The Treasurer's report and FY 19-20 budget were approved unanimously.

Judy Ney presented the November Treasurer's report, which had been previously emailed to the Council for review. Deborah Race moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and approve the FY 19-20 budget with a second by Danae Benton. The Treasurer's report and FY 19-20 budget were approved unanimously.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Membership.** Deborah Race reported WAL has 1,280 members, 323 non-renewals and 422 brand new memberships. The list of renewing, new and non-renewing members was circulated

to the Council for review prior to the meeting. The Council discussed the September motion to automatically remove members who have failed to attend 3 consecutive council meetings. It was noted that member Jo-Ann De Hoyos has not attended the last 3 meetings. Deborah Race moved to approve the confirmation of automatically removing Jo-Ann De Hoyos, with a second by Judy Ney. The automatic removal was approved as presented unanimously and a letter will be sent to the member.

Nikki Chargois-Allen requested nominations for a new council member be submitted to her. The new member will be voted on at the next meeting.

**Newsletter/Website.** Danae Benton was unable to get an update on the status of the website from The Bar. She asks members to send photos, articles, or other content for her to add to the website and newsletter. The newsletter will be resent to the Council members. The next newsletter will be sent in January and will contain the results of the poll from the previous newsletter. Nikki Chargois-Allen encourages suggestions for anyone that would be a good candidate for spotlight articles.

**CLE Report.** Kirby Drake was not present at the meeting. A report for the November CLE will be sent to members. The next CLE will be in January 2020.

**Social Media.** Itzel Martinez reports an increase in followers from 98 to 132 this month. She would like to have 50 new members each month. She would like to start the weekly “Woman Crush Wednesday” posts next week, beginning by featuring the Council members. She encourages recommendations for more women be sent to her with a photo and a brief, 2-3 sentence caption. Nikki Chargois-Allen suggested Judge Rose Reyna be featured on the page and will send a photo and information.

**Scholarship Program.** Teresa Schiller reported no updates or submissions this month for the scholarship. She expects the applications will be received throughout January leading up to the late February deadline.

Itzel Martinez plans to make weekly posts in January to get students attention while they are on break.

**Fall/Spring Networking.** The February networking event is still planned to be in conjunction with the Texas Women Lawyers Annual Meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in McAllen. The reception for June is still being planned.

Nikki Chargois-Allen would like another event planned between March and April. She asked that suggestions for locations and cities to host the event be emailed to her.

Judy Ney reminded members of the ABA Mid-Year meeting that will be held in Austin in February.

**Ideas for Annual CLE.** Discussion was held regarding planning for the Annual Meeting in June in Dallas. The reception will be held at the Anatole. The room can hold up to 130 people, but there will be food and cocktail table brought in to fill the room. There will be no charge for the use of the room for the reception, only the food brought in. Elizabeth Cantu has volunteered to be a part of the reception committee. All speakers and topics must be finalized by January 6<sup>th</sup>. Nikki Chargois-Allen asks members to brainstorm of ways to make the issues of women’s

suffrage and voter's rights more modern. She has reached out to the previously mentioned author, Erin Geiger Smith, to be a potential panel speaker.

**Award Committee:** The awards information will be sent to the Council members for review. This is information that will be included in the next newsletter.

**Pro Bono Workgroup.** The Law Education Committee of the State Bar of Texas has created new, interactive Civic Lessons for 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. The Council will be the first group presenting this program to the community. It will likely be the end of the year when it will be available to the members.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates and Events.** The next meeting will be held on January 16, 2020 via teleconference.

**New Business.** No further business was declared, and Judy Ney moved to adjourn the meeting with a second by Summer Olmos.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.