

**MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24, 2004 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WOMEN AND THE LAW SECTION
OF THE STATE BAR OF TEXAS**

Call to Order

Judy L. Ney of Houston, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center. She welcomed those attending, announcing that there would be a short business meeting prior to the continuing legal education program. She encouraged attendees to have refreshments, which were provided by Bexar County Women's Bar Association.

Attendees

Teresa Oxford of San Antonio, Chair-elect; D'Metria Benson of Dallas, Vice-chair/Membership; Lisa Smith of San Antonio, Vice-chair/Newsletter; and council members Georgina Benavides of McAllen, Ralph H. Brock of Lubbock, Ronnie E. G. Harrison of Houston, Carolyn F. Moore of Lubbock, Kathy Cannon of Austin, and Carmen Samaniego of San Antonio were present. Also attending were Kristie Brasfield, State Bar staff liaison, many members of the Section, and many guests.

Mara Blatt of El Paso, Secretary; Lisa Hernandez of Plano, Treasurer; Suzanne Mann Duvall of Dallas, Chronologist; Misty Ventura of Dallas, Immediate Past Chair; Louise B. Raggio of Dallas, emeritus voting member; and council members Avo Stevens Butler of Sherman and Sherry Wetsch of Houston had excused absences.

Not present was Deborah Ingraham of Austin, emeritus voting member.

Ney said that Moore would act as secretary during the meeting.

Secretary's Report

Upon motion by Beryl Crowley and second by Brock, the minutes of the April 3, 2004 meeting of the Section council were approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Ney stated that the Section has a balance of \$1427.54 as of June 23, 2004.

Pro Bono Report

Ney said that Harrison, along with Leo Ney, long time volunteer for the Section, and Victoria Corcoran, Development Director for Women's Advocacy Project, were selling bags for \$20.00 to attendees at the State Bar Annual Meeting in the convention center. She said that once attendees purchase bags, they could fill the bags with an assortment of books that Harrison had collected during the year. Proceeds from the sale will go to Women's Advocacy Project. Ney encouraged everyone attending the meeting to purchase a bag and fill it with books.

Membership Report

Benson said that she would continue to work on getting more lawyers to join the Section.

Nominations/Elections

Ney announced that the nominations committee had submitted the following Slate of Officers for the Women and the Law Section for 2004-05

Officers

Chair	Teresa A. Oxford (San Antonio)
Chair-Elect	Mara Blatt (El Paso)
Vice-Chair of Membership	D'Metria Benson (Dallas)
Vice-Chair of Newsletter	Lisa Smith (San Antonio)
Secretary	Avo Stevens Butler (Sherman)
Treasurer	Ralph H. Brock (Lubbock)
Chronologist	Suzanne Duvall (Dallas)
Immediate Past Chair	Judy Ney (Houston)
Emeritus Voting Member	Louise Raggio (Dallas)

Council Positions Expiring 2006

Lisa Hernandez (Dallas)
Sherry Wetch (Houston)
Tonya Carter (Houston)
Laura Benitez Geisler (Dallas)

Council members who have positions that will not expire until 2005 were voted into office last year and will continue their positions until June of 2005. Those council members are:

Georgina Benavides (McAllen)
Kathy Cannon (Austin)
Ronnie Harrison (Houston)
Carolyn Moore (Lubbock)
Carmen Samaniego (San Antonio).

Ney said that officers who will be voted on include the chair-elect, vice-chairs, secretary, treasurer, chronologist, and all council members whose terms will expire in 2006.

Moore moved that the nominations cease and that the slate of nominees from the nominations committee be accepted by acclamation. The motion passed.

Ney then turned the meeting over to Oxford, who gave Ney a plaque to commemorate her service to the Section and thanked her for all that she had accomplished for the Section. Ney, who has been elected to be a Section representative to the State Bar Board of Directors, and Brock, who is also on the State Bar Board of Directors, left the meeting to attend a State Bar Board of Directors meeting.

Announcements

Oxford gave all attendees who were presidents or representatives from local women's bar associations a rose and asked that they join together for a photograph. The roses were

compliments of Esquire Deposition Services. Oxford said that the next meeting of the Section council would probably be the second Saturday in September in Austin.

Smith stated that the Section's newsletter, **The Women's Advocate**, which has been sent by mail to members, would be sent by e-mail to all members who have listed their e-mail addresses with the Section. Members who do not have e-mail or who prefer to receive the newsletter by mail, will continue to receive the newsletter by mail.

Samaniego asked attendees to consider signing up as organ donors, explaining that more information on the subject was available in the exhibit hall of the convention center. She suggested that the Section might want to work on a continuing legal education program about women's health with the Insurance Section and the Health Law Section.

Beryl Crowley, Executive Director for the Texas Center for Legal Ethics and Professionalism, said that Louise Raggio was one of two winners of the first Sandra Day O'Connor Award. She congratulated the Section for nominating Ms. Raggio. In addition, Crowley suggested that in the further the Section might want to work with the Center in making the award, which she predicted would be an annual event.

Awards

Oxford presented the Section's Sarah T. Hughes Award to Charley Farris of Wichita Falls, Texas. Ms. Farris accepted the award, expressing appreciation for recognition from the Section. She said that she had known Judge Hughes and was very honored to receive the award.

Oxford announced that Beverly Tarpley of Odessa was the recipient of the Section's Ma'at Justice Award. Ms. Cynthia Allen accepted the award on behalf of Ms. Tarpley who was celebrating her 50th wedding anniversary in Iceland.

Continuing Legal Education Program

Oxford introduced both Charlye O. Farris, attorney from Wichita Falls, and the Honorable Pamela Mathy, U.S. Federal Magistrate Judge of San Antonio who spoke on **Women and the Law: Today's Issues, Today's Struggles**. Attendees of the program received one hour of ethics credit of continuing legal education

The meeting adjourned at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn F. Moore, Acting on behalf of Myra Blatt, Secretary
July 2, 2004

