

MINUTES OF THE WOMEN AND THE LAW COUNCIL MEETING
September 25, 2010, Austin, Texas
11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Carol Jendrzey, Judy Ney, Suzette Patton, Mary Evelyn McNamara, Patricia Blackshear, Marissa Helm, Ralph Brock, Carolyn Moore, Ronnie Harrison, Melissa Dorman

PARTICIPATING BY TELEPHONE: Yvette Ostolaza, Tonya Carter, Andrea Johnson

ABSENT: Mara Blatt, Alison Colvin, Deborah Cordova, Cori Harbour, Marlene Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

- I. Introduction: Carol Jendrzey distributed a copy of the Proposed Amendments to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, today's agenda, a copy of the council roster, a copy of our bylaws, a list of pertinent dates and deadlines for our section, the Sarah T. Hughes award information, and a reimbursement form.
- II. Approval of the minutes: Carolyn Moore moved for approval, and Suzette Patton seconded the motion. There was one abstention and 12 votes in favor.
- III. Treasurer's Report: Our current balance is \$23,569.78. We expect the second set of dues money to come in soon. The last check for dues received was \$7,315.00. The next one is expected to be smaller. Mary Evelyn McNamara moved for approval of the treasurer's report. Judy Ney seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. One action item was noted; we have not been provided a bill for the costs from the State Bar Annual Meeting, so we will request that the State Bar staff give us a bill of our costs from the State Bar Annual Meeting.
- IV. Turn-over of Account Management to State Bar (Ralph Brock): Ralph Brock described the procedures for working with the State Bar to manage our account. He uses a Quicken program to streamline the process. The State Bar can handle this process and then send it to our treasurer. The Section still control the approval process for what is paid out of the Section's accounts. The State Bar does not charge for this process. Most sections have turned their accounting over to the State Bar. Tonya Carter moved to turn over the accounting functions to the State Bar. Carolyn Moore seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.
- V. Committee Reports
 - A. Membership - Mary Evelyn McNamara

1. Announcement in Texas Bar Circle in August: Carol assisted in placing this announcement.
2. New Attorney Inductions: There will be a table at the New Attorney Induction at the Frank Erwin Center. Carol Jendrzey, Mary Evelyn McNamara and Suzette Patton have volunteered to help with this effort.
3. Outreach to local women's bar associations: Mary Evelyn circulated a proposed letter to be sent to local women's bar associations to encourage membership in our Section and to partner with them for presenting a health law panel in various cities or other projects. She will send the letter.

B. Newsletter - Carolyn Moore

1. Status on October publication: Carolyn has sent the articles to the State Bar.
2. Deadlines for future publications: January 15, 2011. Topics are open; there are no size limits.
3. Commitments for future publications: Carolyn will solicit topics and articles for future publications. Preliminary topics are compensation issues, attire, sharing ideas and events in local communities, and the November election results. We will let Carolyn know by October 15, 2010 whether we will find an article for submission or prepare an article for submission. Mary Evelyn will solicit information from local women's bar associations.

C. Annual Meeting - Patricia Blackshear: The Annual Meeting is June 23-24, 2011 at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio.

1. CLE: We do want to offer CLE for the 2011 Annual Meeting. We prefer to have it the first day, in the afternoon. The group discussed a health-related theme, such as updating our Top Five Legal Issues Women Need to Know. Carolyn Moore suggested asking Abraham Verghese, surgeon and author, to speak to the group. Tonya suggested we adopt a different topic, since our road show CLE is health-related. She suggested we study the changing roles of women lawyers, with more husbands staying at home with children. Last year we did the virtual office; the year before was employment law. Judy Ney suggested something with women in the military/women veterans, to mirror the State Bar's veteran theme for this bar year. Andrea Johnson mentioned that FMLA

regulations for the military are changing. Judy Ney suggested that we press the State Bar for a good room location for the section meeting. The group decided to go with a "changing roles for women" theme.

2. Reception: We have traditionally split the costs of a reception with two other sections. We want to do a reception, the question is whether we want to do it with another section. It was suggested that we partner with the Bexar County Women's Bar or another section. We will follow up with an e-mail vote for reception decisions.
 3. Award Nomination Deadline: We will appoint a committee to coordinate the nominations for the Sarah T. Hughes and Ma'At awards. Our deadline for nominations is March 30, 2011. Andrea Johnson prepared letters to the persons submitting nominations, and we will do that again this year. Andrea Johnson, Judy Ney, and Suzette Patton volunteered to help with this process.
- D. Chronologist - Ronnie Harrison
Status: Our boxes from years ago are gone; some of our items are stored in the basement. Ronnie will try to determine what is stored with the State Bar.
- E. Website - Tonya Carter
Updates and status of use of State Bar: There are pros and cons of having the State Bar handle website issues. There is no control over updates. The State Bar would like for us to include a link to Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans. Carol discussed having a password-protected section for members only, to access things like the newsletter.
- F. Women and their Health: Five Top Legal Issues Women Need to Know Program - Carol Jendrzey
1. Graciela Cigarroa agreed to participate. Graciela helped with previous panels in San Antonio and Austin and is familiar with the program.
 2. UTHSCSA agreed to host a program in San Antonio in January 2011. We already have a program from a past CLE, which will be updated.
 3. Other areas: Possible sites are Lubbock, Dallas, Tyler, and Galveston.

4. Carol Jendrzey will follow up with members about topics, speakers, and sites.
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- VI. Texas Lawyers for Texas Veterans - Carol Jendrzey
There is a need for veterans to receive legal assistance. Clinics have been set up in Houston and Austin, and one is being set up in San Antonio. The State Bar would like women attorneys to get involved because it is believed that many women veterans distrust the veterans assistance programs due to issues with men during their service with the military. We cannot staff the clinics, but we can reach out to local women's bar groups and our membership to encourage participation in the program. Maureen Cobb is an attorney in San Antonio who also serves in the military. She has agreed to be involved. Judy Ney will approach the chair of the Military Section to request an article for our newsletter. Ronnie Harrison suggested establishing a hotline for women veterans to provide information on the clinics. Carol Jendrzey will contact our members to advise them of these issues and encourage their local bars to have their attorneys staff the clinics and possible set up clinics for women only that are staffed by women attorneys.
 - VII. Council Terms - Carol Jendrzey
 - A. Terms - no discussion.
 - B. Bylaw Amendment: The State Bar wants all bylaws sent to them and they will develop model bylaws. Thus, further discussion of the bylaws was tabled.
 - VIII. Changes in Disciplinary Rules - Carol Jendrzey
 - 1.13 Prohibited Sexual Relations: Carol Jendrzey mentioned that the Family Law Section wants to have a requirement that the client be the one making the complaint. There are concerns, however, of having a situation where the client may not be competent to make the complaint (minor, incompetent, etc.). We are not aware of any other limitations on someone lodging a grievance or making a complaint. We decided that we did not have enough information on the issue, and are not in a position to support the Family Law's comment on the proposed change.
 - IX. Old/New Business:
 - A. Patricia Blackshear suggested we have a Facebook page for posting events, information.
 - B. Our next meeting is January 22, 2011, at the State Bar offices in Austin.
 - X. Adjourn
The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.