

## **Minutes of the Women and the Law Section Council Meeting**

**September 13, 2014, Texas Law Center, Austin, Texas**

Nora Bryant, chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. Other officers and council members present in Austin were Judy Ney, Angela Webster, Deborah Cordova, Carmen Samaniego, Jo Al Cannon Sheridan and Elizabeth Von Kreisler. Those attending via teleconference were Melissa Dorman, Nikki Allen and Stephanie Gonzalez.

**Approval of Minutes** - Upon motion and second, the minutes of the June 27, 2014 meeting were approved.

**Acceptance of Treasurer's Report** - Upon motion and second, the Treasurer's report was accepted. It showed a balance of \$26,771.10. A discussion was had that we need to reorder section brochures for about \$300 and to update the plague with award winners in the Bar building for about \$10.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Membership**- by Stephanie Gonzalez: we have 724 members (up 11%). Out of those 479 have renewed and 198 are non-renewals. In 2013-2014 we had 653 members and in 2012-2013 we had 1,069 members (all new attorneys had complimentary membership). In 2011 we had 518 members. A discussion followed in which suggestions were made to request statistical information for ages 20-29 since this age group has the lowest membership in sections; get in touch with law students; get in touch with Texas Young Lawyers; send an email to non-renewing members; possibly do a joint program with Women in the Profession (Elizabeth Marsh-chair); and get in touch with TMCP (diversity groups) to do a joint program.

**Newsletter/Website** – by Angela Webster: we now have a Facebook account. A discussion was had on how to preserve our records. Melissa Dorman volunteered to contact the State Bar about archiving our records. To be included in the next newsletter are photos from the Annual Meeting, interview with Ellen Grimes, summary of award winners (by Deborah Cordova ), and a book review (by Paul Whitten-Doolen). Deadline for input is October 20, 2014. Suggestion of spotlighting an attorney was Nicole Mignone who is a life coach.

**Chronologist**-by Deborah Cordova: Discussion was had on how to preserve what we do have. An interview was conducted on Ellen Grimes. Discussion was also had concerning the need for on-line storage such as Drop-Box

### **New Business**

**State Bar Annual Meeting** - our Annual Meeting will be in San Antonio at the Convention center and in the Grand Hyatt on June 18-19, 2014. It was suggested that we do a joint presentation with Women In The Profession committee on Unconscious Bias. Discussion was had about whether to have a breakfast or reception and when to give our awards. Discussion was deferred in order to get with Chelsie Garza.

**Projects for 2014-2015**-Council members need to commit to do two projects. Discussion was had concerning having council members go as representatives of the Section to law schools.

**Miscellaneous**-A short discussion was had about a possible council retreat.

**Upcoming Meeting** – the next meeting will be via telephone on Thursday November 13, 2014.

**Adjourn** - The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ney  
Acting Secretary