

LOUISIANA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

12:00 a.m. ♡ Tuesday, May 20, 2014
Louisiana Bar Center ♡ New Orleans

MINUTES

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

Chauntis T. Jenkins called to order the meeting of the Diversity Committee of the Louisiana State Bar Association and business was conducted in accordance with the agenda below.

ROLL CALL

Committee Chair(s) present: Chauntis T. Jenkins

Committee Chair(s) absent: Luis A. Leitzelar

Committee members present:

Franchesca Hamilton Acker

Lawanda B. Gibson

Paul D. Hesse

Honorable Max N. Tobias, Jr.

Committee members present by phone/video conference:

Derrick Edwards

Honorable Quintillis K. Lawrence

LSBA staff present:

Tricia R. Pierre, Director, Member Outreach and Diversity, Staff Liaison

Michelle Neal, Outreach Coordinator, Member Outreach and Diversity

Committee members absent:

Paul S.T. Balanon

Andrejia L. A. Boutte

James D. Caldwell, Ex-Officio

Ariel A. Campos, Sr., Ad Hoc

Christina L. Carroll

Marcus E. Edwards

Honorable Elizabeth E. Foote, Ex-Officio

Lauren E. Godshall

Christopher B. Hebert

Honorable Karen K. Herman

Wayne J. Lee, Ex-Officio

Maria Pabon Lopez, Ex-Officio

David D. Meyer, Ex-Officio

Yolanda D. Montgomery, Ex-Officio

V. Elaine Boyle Patin, Ad Hoc

Freddie Pitcher, Jr., Ex-Officio

Ronald J. Scalise, Jr., LSBA Board Liaison

Chantell M. Smith

Shirley A. Synder

Scott J. Spivey

Jack M. Weiss, III, Ex-Officio

Ruth B. Wesley, Ad Hoc

Angela White Bazile, Ad Hoc

Sheila M. Wilkinson

Other(s) present by phone/video conference:

Kelly McNeil Legier

I. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion and second, the minutes were unanimously approved.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Diversity Awards Subcommittee

Waived Report

B. Diversity Communications Subcommittee

Ms. Jenkins reported on the status of the diversity video and advised that the subcommittee held a meeting on April 23, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. At that meeting, Kelly McNeil Legier requested that the subcommittee members go through the video and time mark any areas of the video that could be utilized for a one minute video. The goal was to place this information on the Member Outreach and Diversity webpage and lead in for programs. Ms. Legier advised that Elaine Boyle Patin indicated in the past that she could request that the Attorney General's Office assist but Ms. Legier had no further information on the status. Ms. Legier also advised that Derrick Edwards indicated in the past that he may know a videographer that could assist. Ms. Legier had no further information on the status. Tricia R. Pierre advised that the video is lengthy and the entirety of the video would have to be watched to identify who is on the video. A record was not made as to what order participants appear on the video. Ms. Pierre also advised that she has attempted to contact the videographer, Lawrence "Larry" Panna on three occasions regarding same. Ms. Jenkins requested Ms. Legier contact him and have him contact Ms. Pierre. Ms. Legier went into details regarding what needed to be done to further the project at length. Ms. Legier further advised that she contacted Lannette Richardson, past volunteer of the Suit Up program, and authorized her to go through the video and identify the participants of the video and time increment of each interview. Ms. Jenkins acknowledged the project could take some time to complete but that the next subcommittee should be encouraged to move the project forward. Ms. Jenkins advised that upon an estimate being received, that the subcommittee should be provided with the estimate and should identify what participants of the video should be focused on. Upon a motion and second, this action was unanimously approved.

C. Diversity Conclave Subcommittee

No Report

D. Community Outreach Subcommittee

No Report

E. LGBT Diversity Subcommittee

Paul Hesse reported that a meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. The subcommittee will discuss confirming a date for a CLE to be scheduled October 2014.

F. Diversity Integration

Ms. Jenkins reported that Lynn Luker and Deborah Love will present a CLE program titled "Unconscious Bias" on Monday, June 2, 2014 at the LSBA Annual Meeting and LSBA/LJC Summer School. Ms. Jenkins encouraged Diversity Committee members to support the program and attend.

G. Pipeline to Diversity Subcommittee

1. Law Firms and Judiciary

No report.

2. Law Students and Students

Ms. Jenkins requested that Ms. Pierre report on the progress of the Suit Up program. Ms. Pierre reported that the program is scheduled on June 9-27, 2014. Eighteen (18) students were chosen to participate in the program. A planning meeting was held on Monday, May 19, 2014. The subcommittee is attempting to finalize the program. Law firms are needed to volunteer for shadowing opportunities. Ms. Jenkins requested that the Diversity Committee members contact Ms. Pierre if they could provide a shadowing opportunity.

III. REPORT OF DIVERSITY COMMITTEE CHAIR(S)

1. Information and Discussion Items

1. Diversity Committee Appointments

Ms. Jenkins reported that a Committee Appointment meeting was held on April 29, 2014. Recommendations were provided. Diversity Committee Appointments will be finalized soon. Ms. Jenkins advised Diversity Committee members to contact Ms. Pierre if interested in any particular subcommittee. Subcommittee appointments will be finalized by July 1, 2014.

2. Diversity Conclave, Date and Location for 2015 and 2016

Ms. Jenkins reported on the availability and unavailability of hotel conference space on the following dates: February 27, March 6, 13, 2014. The following Baton Rouge hotels were checked for availability: L'Auberge (inadequate space); Hilton (no availability); The Renaissance (no availability). Ms. Jenkins requested the Diversity Committee members provide feedback so that a date could be secured in the near future. Ms. Jenkins further advised that the Marriott New Orleans was on hold for March 6, 2014. Ms. Legier requested the address of the Marriott. An alternate date of February 17, 2014 will be explored. Ms. Legier requested that the Baton Rouge River Center be explored. Ms. Pierre advised that she would contact the 2014-15 chair(s) with that information as soon as possible. Dates for 2016 were not discussed on this date.

3. LSBA Annual Meeting, Civil Rights Programming

Ms. Jenkins informed the Diversity Committee members of the civil rights programming that will occur at the LSBA Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 1, 2014 and encouraged attendance.

4. Train the LSBA Diversity Facilitator, May 7, 2014

Ms. Jenkins reported that the Program was well attended and evaluations were favorable.

IV. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MEMBER OUTREACH AND DIVERSITY

1. Diversity/Outreach Report Card 2014-15

Ms. Pierre reported that the report card was finalized.

2. Corporate Counsel Initiative

Ms. Pierre reported that the letters were mailed to minority corporate counsel. Ms. Pierre advised of the status of new signatories. Ms. Pierre reported that a list of the new signatories will be placed in the August issue of the LA Bar Journal.

3. Haiti Initiative

Ms. Pierre reported that the materials related to the initiative were provided to Loretta Larsen, Executive Director. Ms. Larsen will advise whether it can be added to the agenda for the Board of Governors meeting in June.

V. UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS

1. Diversity Facilitation Plan

Ms. Pierre reported that the 2014-15 Diversity Committee will need to determine how they wish to finalize a new strategic plan. Dianne Mouton –Allen re-worked the responses to assist with developing a new strategic plan.

2. Sale of Diversity Conclave Video

Ms. Pierre reported that the 2014-15 Diversity Committee would need to determine if this could be accomplished. The current video release prohibits sale of the video.

3. Diversity CLE Accountability Form

Ms. Pierre reported that no action was ever taken by the 2013-14 Diversity Committee on this item. Ms. Legier advised that she created a form but that no further action was taken by the Diversity Committee.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

No action items.

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VII. NEW BUSINESS

Resources for Disabilities Summit

Franchesca Hamilton Acker reported that she had volunteered to explore if the Children's Law Committee had resources to help further the upcoming Disabilities Summit. No further resources were located.

Recognition of service of Chauntis T. Jenkins

The Diversity Committee expressed gratitude for the leadership, time and commitment provided by Ms. Jenkins.

Proposed resolution to recognize Kelly McNeil Legier for her service

Upon a motion by the Honorable Max N. Tobias, Jr. and a second by Lawanda B. Gibson, this action was unanimously approved.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Luis A. Leitzelar

Chauntis T. Jenkins