



**Minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting
held on Thursday, April 10, 2019 6:00 PM**

1. Welcome & State of the Association Address – Virginia A. LoPreto, NYWBA President

Virginia A. LoPreto, 2018-2019 President of the NYWBA, recognized that a quorum was present. She called the 2019 Annual Membership Meeting to order (at 6:00 pm).

The President thanked *Nicole Hyland* and her law firm, *Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz*, for once again generously hosting the annual meeting and Nicole for, again, organizing her ever popular annual Ethics CLE-The Wheel of Ethics. Knowing Nicole and two of the presenters, the President predicted that the program will be both informative and entertaining.

A copy of the 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes was made available to membership. The President asked for a vote to approve the minutes from 2018. A motion to approve was made by Myrna L. Freed, with a second by Magnolia Levy. The usual abstentions were made by those who were not in attendance last year.

State of the Association Address:

- As of April 9, 2019, NYWBA has 705 members. We retained our 11 WBASNY Delegates and remain one of two (along with Brooklyn) the largest of the 20 Chapters of Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. The President thanked Membership Co-Chairs, Meaghan Carey and Jacqueline Meyer -- both of whom were new to the Committee and worked extremely hard. The President thanked those who assisted with the membership drive. She noted there is one month left to add new members and renewals, and anyone who joins as a *new* member will have their membership extended through May, 2020.
- Our last Annual Awards and Installation Dinner was held on June 12, 2018. It was held at the wonderful event space, Three Sixty, and Hon. Rolando T. Acosta, Presiding Justice of the 1st Department and Hon. Deborah A. Kaplan, Administrative Justice, Supreme Court, New York County, were presented with *The President's Special Award* and Hon. Karla M. Moskowitz received the *Association's Award of Special Recognition*.
- Our past year's signature events included:
 - On July 19, 2018, we presented the Martha E. Gifford Summer Program for law students, recent law graduates and new attorneys on "What It's Really Like to Practice Law as a Woman," co-sponsored by the *New York City Bar Association*. The program was a resounding success and generated tremendous interest in our organization.
 - On September 6, 2018, we held our Membership Reception at Skadden Arps Meagher & Flom.

- On November 29, 2018, we held our first program entitled, “Women Lawyers at the Crossroads: What’s Next?” The program consisted of a panel discussion of women lawyers who have successfully leveraged their resources in shaping the trajectory of their career -- whether as equity partners in Big Law, In-house attorneys, transitioning to non-profit or downsizing to a small law firm. The program was hosted by JAMS, and the Membership Committee and the President are hoping this will become an annual event.

- On February 26, 2019, we held our Annual Judiciary Reception Honoring Newly Elected, Re-Elected and New Appointed Judges of New York County at the Yale Club. We had record attendance. Many thanks to Co-Chairs, Magnolia K. Levy and Jennifer P. Brown, for their efforts in pulling this event together as well as the Membership Reception.

- Our Committee chairs were especially busy -- even attending quarterly “whine” and cheese events at my office. Most substantive law committees had at least two CLE programs. The importance of our committee chairs was and continues to be highlighted in our Newsletter, where in the printed versions, we showcase the chairs, their practices and areas of law. The President noted that our membership is getting younger -- and more importantly, our younger attorneys are becoming more actively involved in leadership roles.

- During 2018-19, we continued to provide a steady stream of diverse programming, much of which is free to our members thanks to the bequest received by NYWBA from Founder, Hon. Florence Shientag.

- The President thanked our CLE co-chairs, without whom we would not be able to provide credits, for free to our members: Amy Goldstein, Elizabeth Shampnoi and Tara Diamond.

- While every committee has done its share to advance our mission, provide CLE and mentoring opportunities for our members, our unsung heroes are our Newsletter Committee -- month after month, they gather our articles, pictures and information, and they edit, tweak and improvise! Dana Heitz, Alexandra Campbell King and Gabriella Formosa.

- We congratulate our Past President and Treasurer for WBASNY, *Deborah G. Rosenthal*, who was nominated as WBASNY Vice-President. We know she will serve with honor and distinction.

- The President thanked the NYWBA Officers, who have supported her as President: Vice-Presidents, Amanda B. Norejko, Amy B. Goldsmith, Magnolia D. Levy; Treasurer, Jocelyn L. Jacobson; Recording Secretary, Sabrina E. Morrissey; and Corresponding Secretary, Dawn M. Cardi. Last year, we added a new officer position of Immediate Past President and that was held by Myra Freed.

2. Treasurer’s Report – Jocelyn L. Jacobson, NYWBA Treasurer

Ms. Jacobson reported that the NYWBA is in good financial condition. As of March 31, 2018, we had a total of \$189,902.81 in our checking and savings accounts, and \$296,318.92 in our investment account, for Hon. Florence Shientag’s bequest.

3. Election of NYWBA Officers, Directors, Delegates & Nominations Committee; Election of WBASNY Officers – Elizabeth A. Bryson, NYWBA Past President & Director

A. NYWBA Elections

The President then announced that the NYWBA’s **Committee on Nominations has identified** a stellar group of candidates for NYWBA positions effective June 1st. A list had been circulated prior to the meeting. Amy Goldsmith made a motion to waive the reading of the individual names,

which was seconded Myra Freed. The members then voted unanimously to waive the reading of the individual names.

NYWBA OFFICERS (2019-2020)

President:	Virginia A. LoPreto
Vice Presidents:	Amanda B. Norejko Magnolia D. Levy Sabrina E. Morrissey
Treasurer:	Jocelyn L. Jacobson
Recording Secretary:	Dawn M. Cardi
Corresponding Secretary:	Melissa Ephron-Mandel
Immediate Past President:	Myra L. Freed

NYWBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Directors – Class of 2019-2022

Meaghan E. Carey	Morgan Mouchette
Vivian R. Drohan	Deborah G. Rosenthal
Hon. Judith J. Gische	Judith E. White
Amy B. Goldsmith	

Class of 2018-2020 (filling unexpired terms)	Class of 2017-2020 (filling unexpired terms)
Lissett Ferreira & Alexandra King	Nicole J. Hyland & Tara Diamond

Directors – Continuing in Office *(No vote required)*

Michael W. Appelbaum	Yacine Barry-Wun
Hon. Laura E. Drager	Fran R. Hoffinger
Leona Beane	Julie Hyman
Jennifer P. Brown	Kay Marmorek
Hon. Sherry Klein-Heitler	Nidhi Shetye

NYWBA DELEGATES TO WBASNY BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Class of 2019-2020)

Yacine Barry-Wun	Julie Hyman
Jennifer P. Brown	Marjorie A. Martin
Elizabeth A. Bryson	Amanda B. Norejko
Dawn M. Cardi	Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann
Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin	Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff

Magnolia D. Levy

NYWBA COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (Class of 2019-2021)

Jennifer P. Brown

Jo Ann Douglas

Elizabeth A. Bryson

Deborah G. Rosenthal

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTINUING IN OFFICE (no vote required)

Yacine Barry Wun

Hon. Kelly O'Neill-Levy.

Patricia Ann Grant

Hon. Lisa A. Sokoloff

NYWBA ADVISORY COUNCIL - NEW MEMBERS (no vote required)

Catherine M. Foti

Hon. Kelly O'Neill-Levy

Susan M. Moss

Myra Freed made a motion to elect the foregoing nominees for the stated offices and terms and to unanimously elect them in a single slate. Jennifer Brown seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. There were no nays, and the usual abstentions were made. The motion was approved.

B. WBASNY Elections

Under WBASNY'S By-Laws, current President-Elect, Dierdre L. Hay (from the Finger Lakes Association of Women Attorneys Chapter) will be automatically installed as 2019-2020 WBASNY President. WBASNY's Nominations Committee, with representatives from Chapters across the state, nominated the individuals listed below for other WBASNY Officer positions. NYWBA members voted unanimously to waive the reading of the names and join the other WBASNY Chapters in electing the following:

WBASNY OFFICER NOMINATIONS (2019-2020)

President-Elect: Joy A. Thompson (*Brooklyn*)

Vice Presidents: Dawn Reid-Green (Staten Island)

Deborah A. Rosenthal (NYWBA)

Melissa H. Nickson (Western New York)

Treasurer: Kelly A. Pressler (Orange-Sullivan)

Recording Secretary: Heather Neu (Rochester)

Corresponding Secretary: Dawn A. Lott (Suffolk)

Jennifer Brown made a motion to approve the above state of WBASNY Office Nominees, and Myra L. Freed seconded the motion. All present voted in favor. There were no nays and the usual abstentions were made. The motion was approved. The WBASNY Officers will be officially installed at the WBASNY Convention on Saturday, June 2, 2018.

The President thanked all outgoing directors and officers for their service, including Jean Han, Jennifer Brown and Beth Bryson. She also congratulated all of the newly elected NYWBA Officers, Directors and Delegates, as well as NYWBA Past President and incoming WBASNY Treasurer Deborah Rosenthal and the other incoming WBASNY Officers.

4. NYWBA Foundation

Gretchen Schumann, President of the NYWBA Foundation and past NYWBA President said a few words about the Foundation and its work. She said they are awarding fellowships to NYU and Fordham Law Schools. She discussed a summer placement of a Cardozo Law School student, plus three (3) grants that are being made at high schools for internships. She also discussed the funding of a fellowship for immigration policies on women and children.

5. Adjournment – Virginia A. LoPreto The President thanked NYWBA Executive Director Karen Lu for all of her hard work and dedication throughout the year.

The President encouraged everyone to register for the NYWBA Annual Installation and Awards Dinner, which will be held at 360 Degrees in Tribeca, on June 13, 2019. She said our auction and raffles at the dinner supports the Foundation and encouraged everyone to participate. She announced that we are honoring Hon. Betty Weinberg Ellerin, with the first ever The Betty Weinberg Ellerin Award of Excellence; Hon. Laura E. Drager, with The Joan Ellenbogen Award and Hon. Judy Kluger, who is now Executive Director of Sanctuary for Families, will be presented with The President's Special Award.

No further business being held, a motion to adjourn was made at 6:30 p.m. by Magnolia Levy and seconded by Michael Appelbaum, and was unanimously passed by the members.

The program was then turned over to NYWBA Ethics Chair Nicole Hyland who organized the Ethics CLE Program that immediately followed the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sabrina E. Morrissey
NYWBA Recording Secretary