

DEI Council
April 9th, 2025 Meeting Notes

Present: Nam Nguyen (Co-Chair), SaNni Lemonidis, Miryam Gordon, Judge Andrea Jarmon, Anthony Rich, Jerry Thomas, Julien Tarraf, Miguel B., Raina Wagner (Co-Chair), Matthew Dresden, Alec Stephens, Sharon Sakamoto, Tom Ahearne

Absent:

Guests:

WSBA Staff: Andrea Agrella Clemente, Saleena Salango, Diana Singleton

BOG Liaison:

Meeting called to order 12:02 pm

April Meeting Minutes

Matthew Dresden made a motion to approve the minutes. Jerry Thomas seconded the motion. 11 members voted in approval, 0 declined, 0 abstained.

Board of Governors Update

Gov. Nam Nguyen reports two significant updates from the May 2nd Board of Governors meeting in Port Angeles. Firstly, the unanimous approval of the equity and justice plan after a two-and-a-half-year process. Secondly, the approval of two candidates (Chris Bhang and Uzma Munir Hamid) for the at-large election starting next week. The next steps include that all WSBA members will vote for at-large candidates (Chris Bhang and Uzma Munir Hamid) in the upcoming election next week.

At-Large Selection Process

Raina Wagner informed the group that the election will open until June 2nd. Raina emphasized the importance of voting participation. There were also congratulated Nam Nguyen on election as governor for next term. It was announced that Kari Petrasek selection as incoming president-elect after the current sitting president, Francis.

Outreach for DEI Council New Member Recruitment for FY 26

According to Nam's update: Applications for WSBA volunteer positions are open until end of month. The DEI Council needs new members to replace departing members including:

- Co-chair Raina Wagner
- Sharon Sakamoto
- Others who are not rejoining

Volunteerism has decreased post-pandemic, but showing signs of slow increase. The Outreach Committee plans targeted recruitment efforts. Diana will send sample recruitment emails with:

- DEI Council description
- Links to flyers
- Application information

Members are encouraged to:

- Share opportunities within their networks
- Promote involvement across all WSBA sections/councils
- Focus on recruiting people interested in equity/justice work implementation

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DEI Council Retreat Planning

Key retreat planning updates included finalizing the timing for the 4-hour in-person retreat. Top date preference was June 8th. Agenda topics include:

- Engagement strategies
- Equity and Justice plan implementation
- Outreach coordination
- Affinity Bar Association coordination
- Strategic planning for next year

Location options under consideration:

- Wing Luke Museum (used last summer)
- WSBA office space if available

Final date and location announcement are expected within next week.

Equity and Justice Plan Workgroup Update

Outreach Workgroup Update

The outreach workgroup reported two main activities, including facilitating articles for the Bar News highlighting affinity groups like the Vietnamese American Bar Association article in upcoming June edition. There was also a ELBA article that was submitted two weeks ago. Furthermore, working on recruitment for the DEI Council positions the next outreach workgroup meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

Pathways Workgroup Update

Julien Tarraf gave an update that the workgroup has been trying to find a new time to meet due to conflicts.

Meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm