



## \*NEWSLETTER\*

# COLLIER COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.

FALL 2003

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By: Jeanne L. Seewald*

Our organization is off to a strong start for the new fiscal year. We are all excited about this revival of our newsletter and hope that it will prove to be a useful tool for our members. As our new year begins, I thought it would be a good opportunity to revisit the purpose of our organization which is the "promotion, recognition and encouragement of the contributions of women within the legal profession and judiciary, improvement of the administration of justice and the elevation of judicial standards, promotion of the study of law particularly among women, dissemination of legal knowledge to all members of the community and improvement of relations between members of the Bar, judiciary and public." We hope that the speakers and events we are planning for the upcoming year will recognize the contributions of women to the legal profession and judiciary, provide information on various areas of the law and promote interaction particularly between the bar and judiciary. One of our projects will be to disseminate to all our members information relating to candidates for political office. Although our organization does not endorse candidates for political office, we want all our members to be informed on the qualifications of candidates for office.

In August, the new officers and board members took office and began planning upcoming events. We have already held several successful meetings this year. In September, we held our second annual Fall Reception and Joint Meeting of the Collier County Women's Bar Association and the Lee County Women Lawyers at Northern Trust Bank in Bonita Springs.

The fall reception was sponsored by Lexis/Nexis and we had 55 attendees. Connie Shipley of Northern Trust hosted our group and provided a wonderful setting for this event. Many comments were received about this being a great opportunity to network with the women attorneys in Lee County. We plan to continue this annual event and hope you will attend next year.

There were 56 attendees at the October meeting at which Amira Dijani Swett talked about preventing your law practice from managing you. Amira's presentation was both interesting and inspiring. We still are looking at several locations for our monthly lunch meetings in 2004. If you attended the October meeting at Frascati's and have any comments, please email them to me. We are considering Frascati's; however, the facility holds a maximum of 60 and we had 56 attendees at our October meeting.

Our Holiday Party was a great success. Carolyn Coukos of Northern Trust Bank was presented with the 2003 Woman Lawyer of the Year. We also held a silent auction to benefit Voices for Kids. Board member Jacqueline Buyze organized this project for CCWBA. You can learn more about Voices for Kids by turning to the next page of this Newsletter.

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VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT [WWW.CCWBA.ORG](http://WWW.CCWBA.ORG)

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*\*See page 3 for details on the Name the Newsletter Contest\**

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## CCWBA PROJECT UPDATE: VOICES FOR KIDS

*By: Jacqueline J. Buyze, CCWBA Board of Directors/Collier County VFK Project Coordinator*

In September of 2003, the CCWBA, in response to the Florida Bar's "Challenge for Children," became actively involved in a project called Voices for Kids ("VFK"). VFK is a nonprofit organization working together with the Guardian Ad Litem of S.W. Florida to collect and disseminate toys and other needed items to children in Foster Care. Our efforts to date have been very successful, thanks to our generous members!

In October, Judith Mercier, Esq. and the law firm of Holland & Knight (Miami) raised nearly \$400 for VFK. Judith utilized the proceeds to purchase educational toys and gift certificates for children of all ages. She then personally delivered these items to our local Guardian Ad Litem office. Also, Lisa Mead, Esq. and Susan Healy, Esq. donated gift cards in October that were utilized to purchase Halloween costumes for the kids.

The month of November was equally eventful thanks to the law firm of Grant, Fridkin, Pearson, Athan & Crown, P.A. With a little help from our friends at Albertson's, Grant Fridkin donated fifty bags full of groceries for complete traditional Thanksgiving feasts. Each bag included a gift certificate for a turkey. The bags were delivered to the office of the Guardian Ad Litem, and were taken by the Guardians directly to our VFK families.

For the month of December, through the efforts of Sharon Hanlon, Esq. and Victoria Ho, Esq., the law firms of Zelman & Hanlon and Asbell & Ho have each made valuable financial contributions to VFK.

Finally, we raised a total of \$545.00 for Voices for Kids through our silent auction held at the Holiday Party. The top bidders and the sponsors were as follows:

Cathy Sharif – Salon Package from Andriette Campbell; Connie Shipley and Amanda Trammell - Mary Kay Gift Bag from Emily Mayne; Carolyn Coukos - Jacket from Andriette Campbell and Salon Services from Katherine Williams; and Maureen Aughton - Paradise Jewelers. Thanks to all who participated, and special thanks to our friends who donated such wonderful items for our event!



**Jacqueline Buyze, Walter Hayley and Connie Shipley at the Holiday Party.**

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### **PRESIDENT**

**Continued from Page 1**

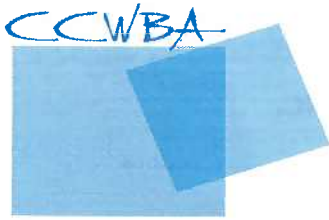
As most of you know, the members of CCWBA recently voted to incorporate and to apply to the IRS for tax-exempt status. Each of these steps has been taken. The organization is now known as the Collier County Women's Bar Association, Inc. and we are awaiting a response from the IRS as to the grant of tax exemption. The impetus for these changes was a recommendation of incorporation to all chapters by the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Inc. ("FAWL"). In October, we voted to adopt new bylaws that aligned our fiscal year and

dues year to July 1 through June 30. This change allows us to maintain the same reporting periods as FAWL.

Dues statements were mailed at the end of July and we currently have 71 members, many of whom are new members to our organization. We are very excited that the membership of CCWBA is growing. A main objective of our board this year is to continue to increase our membership. The motivation for formation of CCWBA in 1993 was to provide women attorneys an opportunity to network with other attorneys. The larger our membership the greater the opportunity for networking.

We encourage everyone to bring a friend or someone new in the community to our next lunch meeting. We also encourage you to bring along our male colleagues as they always are welcome and we would enjoy having them as members. Judge Vince Murphy is one of our most active members and we appreciate his support and attendance at our events.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as President of CCWBA this year and ask each one of you to let me know if you have any suggestions regarding programs or projects for our organization. CCWBA exists to provide services and information to its members. Your involvement is encouraged and appreciated.



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND STATEMENT OF DUES

Membership from July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2004

Dues: 60.00

Dues for governmental employees and students: \$40.00

Collier County Women's Bar Association

I would like to join the Collier County Women's Bar Association as a  new member  renewal.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bar No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Firm/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Specialization or primary areas of practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to CCWBA and mail to:

COLLIER COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

Attn: Jeanne L. Seewald, President

Fowler White Boggs Banker P.A.

5811 Pelican Bay Boulevard, Suite 600

Naples, Florida 34108

Telephone No.: 239-598-1221 (ext. 231)

Facsimile No.: 239-598-3499

**Members of the Collier County Women's Bar Association are contemporaneously enrolled in the Florida Association of Women Lawyers (FAWL). A portion of dues (\$30.00) are remitted to FAWL.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2004

January 28<sup>th</sup> Update on Title IX

Merrily Dean Baker, Former Athletic Director, FGCU  
Drafter of Title IX Legislation

February 25<sup>th</sup> Climbing the Power Ladder  
Rhea Law, President  
Fowler White Boggs Banker P.A.

Rhea Law is the only female at the helm of any of Florida's 25 largest law firms, according to a recent ranking by *Florida Trend Magazine*.

## NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST

Help us name our Newsletter. The Collier County Bar Association has the *Adverse Witness*, The Florida Bar has the *Florida Bar News*, and the Clearwater Bar Association has the *Res Ipsa*. We have many creative members out there so help name our revived Newsletter. Please send your ideas and suggestions to our webmaster, Emily Mayne, at [emayne@fowlerwhite.com](mailto:emayne@fowlerwhite.com) or call her at 239-598-1221. The Board will review the submissions and the new name and the winner of the contest will be announced at the CCWBA February lunch meeting. The winner of the Name the Newsletter Contest will receive a gift certificate for a nice dinner on the town. Send in those suggestions while you are thinking about it!

**MEMBERS  
OF THE  
COLLIER COUNTY WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Susan Ramsey Aldrich  
G. Helen Athan  
Maureen Aughton  
Arlene F. Austin  
Nadia B. Babella  
Sonia M. Bretzmann  
Jacqueline J. Buyze  
Karen A. Caco  
Stephany S. Carr  
Ellen T. Chadwell  
Mary Beth M. Clary  
Rebecca Zung Clough  
Jennifer J. Cohen  
Marsha Connors  
Carolyn C. Coukos  
Robin H. Doxey  
The Honorable Cynthia A. Ellis  
Linda A. Epstein  
Ann T. Frank  
Brenda C. Garretson  
Ellen A. Goldman  
Cynthia B. Hall  
Sharon M. Hanlon  
Cheryl L. Hastings

The Honorable Hugh D. Hayes  
Susan Ruth Healy  
Starling Hendricks  
Victoria M. Ho  
Rebecca M. Hodge  
Kathleen K. Holloway  
Jessica I. Horowitz  
Wendy Huffstetler Girardin  
Jennifer A. Jamison  
Cheryl R. Kraus  
Charleen Ramus Jaffe  
Elizabeth VanArsdale Krier  
Jeanette M. Lombardi  
Rachel S. Loukonen  
Monika D. Ludwig  
Ashley Lupo  
Judith E. McCaffrey  
Ellen S. Maher  
Mara W. Marzano  
Lisa C. Mead  
Elaine H. Middelstaedt  
The Honorable Lauren L. Miller  
Linda R. Minck  
Diane Preston Moore

Wendy Morris  
Patricia R. Morton  
The Honorable Vincent Murphy  
Eileen E. Newmark  
Lisa Barrett Nocus  
Kathleen C. Passidomo  
Patricia J. Potter  
Linda Zell Randall  
M. Jean Rawson  
Cathy Reiman  
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Deborah L. Russell  
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Jean A. Ryan  
Amy L. Schneider  
Jeanne L. Seewald  
Constance S. Shipley  
Deborah A. Stewart  
Helen Sundgren  
Amira Dajani Swett  
Amanda M. Trammell  
Melissa Vasquez  
Judith C. Wheeler

**\*FUTURE NEWSLETTERS WILL BE MAILED TO MEMBERS OF CCWBA ONLY\***

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