DC NLG Board Meeting: May 12, 2020, 6:30 pm (via Zoom)

MINUTES

Present: Turna Lewis (chair), James Drew, John McCoy, Bill Montross, Ann Wilcox (not attending: Anitra Ash-Shakoor, James Klimaski, Quentin Driskell)

I. Board members shared experiences from staying and working from home, in recent weeks. The board last met in-person on March 10, but missed the April meeting.

II. DC NLG Chapter Newsletter:

Inaugural issue debuted May 1, 2020. Special thanks to Jim Drew, Ann Wilcox and Katie Steinberg for compiling. Discussed improvements to the format, especially in adding graphics.

We discussed possible features for future issues: these could include updates from local courts; committee reports; National NLG news; and a monthly column written by Board members. The next issue will be sent out on June 1, 2020.

III. Endorsements:

We approved endorsing the chapter sign-on to an NLG International Committee letter calling for the lifting of sanctions against Steven Donziger, an environmental attorney who is pursuing unprecedented actions against Chevron in Ecuador. Chapter endorsement requests should be posted to the Board list-serve for feedback and approval.

IV. Treasurer's Report:

We have a "healthy balance" - no funds have been expended since the lock-down. Bill Montross said there has been no change in the separate fund for the Black Identity Extremist Abolition Collective (BIEAC). Following the lock-down period, we will be able to explore options, such as hiring a part-time organizer.

V. IT report:

Things seem to be going well with the web-site and list-serves.

VI. Membership Meetings and on-line events:

We discussed planning one or more chapter events, after the new co-chairs (below) take office. We also discussed the need to reach out to law school contacts and facilitate communication; for example, the Student Disorientation this fall could possibly be a "remote" program.

VII. Election of new co-chairs:

DC attorney Turna Lewis has served multiple terms as the Board's chair, and Chapter President. (thank you, Turna!) Given her decision to step down, we entertained nominations for new co-presidents. John McCoy and Anitra Ash-Shakoor were nominated. Ann Wilcox will serve as Executive VP/Secretary. A quorum being present, the slate was nominated and affirmed by the Board. Congratulations!
Co-chair John McCoy suggested that we have another board meeting on Tuesday, May 26, which will also function as a planning meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.