

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF

Minutes of The Board of Directors of

MetroLALSA, Inc. (“Metro”)

Held via Zoom Conference Call

On the 31st Day of July 2023 at 5:30 PM EST

Members Present:

Ariana Rodriguez- Hernandez	Board Member, VP of Internal Affairs
Darius Santana	Board Member, VP of Pipeline Membership
Blanca Gates	Board Member, VP of Social Action
Isabella Loarte-Ciudad	Board Member, VP of Public Relations
Genesis Canela	Board Member, Vice President
Bernadette Menendez	Board Member, President
Atenedoro Gonzalez	Board Member, Alumni Director
Nicole Fabian Peña	Board Member, VP of Membership
Amily Bolano Diaz	Board Member, VP of Fundraising

Constitution of Meeting

IT WAS NOTED that notice of this meeting had been given to all of the members of The Board (the “Board”) and that a quorum of the Directors was present.

1. **Welcome**

Ms. Menendez welcomed everyone, and each member introduced themselves. Ms. Menendez then gave an overview of the meeting agenda. After providing the agenda overview, Ms. Menendez commenced the meeting.

2. **Matters on the Agenda**

Events

Potluck

Ms. Menendez brought up the upcoming Central Park Picnic. Mr. Gonzalez stated that after conferring with the alumni it was noted that most alumni can only attend August 20th and would prefer the picnic be on that date. Ms. Fabian-Pena and Ms. Rodriguez-Hernandez both agreed to have the picnic on a Sunday. Ms. Gates agreed with the rain date. Ms. Menendez said we will use the group chat to discuss this further. Ms. Menendez asks Ms. Loarte-Ciudad to make a flier for the picnic and Ms. Menendez will make an excel for the potluck sign up.

Activity Event- Non-Alcohol Focussed

Ms. Gates offered the suggestion of having a non-alcohol focussed event for those who do not drink. It was discussed that alcoholism is a large issue in the legal community and we would like to try and address it with non-alcohol focussed events. Ms. Menendez suggested mini golf or bowling as an event and Mr. Santana agreed. Ms. Loarte-Ciudad suggested a workout event such as yoga in the park event plus lunch and the proceeds could go to charity. Mr. Gonzalez suggested a salsa event and Ms. Gates agreed. Ms. Menendez stated that the September event should be the yoga activity or salsa event but it should be later in September around the 15th or 22nd. Ms. Loarte-Ciudad and Ms. Fabian Pena agreed with a date later in September. Ms. Gates suggested including HNBA for the activity event and Ms. Menendez agreed and also asked that Ms. Gates reachout to the yoga instructor she knows. Ms. Gates brought up the fact that the NY Law Exam is on the 15th and some people may be taking it. Ms. Menendez says that the board can discuss further about the event to determine date and activity. Ms. Menendez brings up the issue of finding a space for a salsa class and she stated she will look into parks and studios or schools for a space to host. Ms. Menendez will look into the possibility of a bowling event. Ms. Gates says she knows of a bowling alley. Ms. Loarte-Ciudad says there is a bowling alley in Times Square. Ms. Menendez asked Ms. Loarte-Ciudad about mini-golf and asked her to look into it and get back to us. Ms. Loarte-Ciudad mentioned that it appears to be around \$10 entry.

History Event

The board discussed the MetroLalsa History event; it will take place virtually and will be informal. The event will be focussed on telling others who MetroLalsa is, what we do, and where we started. Ms. Gates says virtual will get out to more people, but for people to get to know us it would be better in-person. Ms. Fabian Pena thinks hybrid events are best. Ms. Menendez wants to record the event and Ms. Gates agrees that a recording of the event would be great for our website. Ms. Menendez said we need to reach out to the schools to see if they want to host. Ms. Bolano Diaz will ask if Rutgers can host the event. Ms. Gates will ask NY Law. Ms. Fabian Pena will ask Cardozo Law. Ms. Menendez asks what a timeline for this looks like and whether the board is thinking October. Ms. Fabian Pena stated she is leaning towards October. Ms. Canela agreed with October and said herschool has fall break October 9th. Ms. Menendez stated October 2nd-6th week is for the history event and asked if a Wednesday is okay. Ms. Menendez then asked the board to raise their hand in favor of Wednesday or Friday for the history event five board members voted for Wednesday and one board member voted for Friday. The consensus was that Wednesday the 4th of October we will be hosting the history event.

Panels

Ms. Gates mentioned that she was part of the national Latino law Student Association and wanted to know if we would like to partner with them for the encuentro event she has to do. Ms. Menendez said she wanted to partner with the national Latino law Student Association to do an educational panel in the fall focusing on topics like discrimination in the legal profession. Ms.

Gates asked if we wanted to stick to that topic or something else? Ms. Menendez asked if anyone on the board had any ideas. Ms. Gates stated that an educational panel on topics not talked about by schools normally would be great such as alternatives to using your JD, public interest panels focusing on public defenders and district attorneys, a clerkship panel, or a bar prep panel. Ms. Loarte- Ciudad spoke about possibly doing a private sector panel regarding how Latino lawyers handle facing a lack of diversity in the legal field and how to find a mentor. She also stated it could be called building your personal board of directors (how to find and retain those relationships) or Building Your Inner Circle. Ms. Menendez liked the idea of a government panel and a mentorship panel and asked if we should do the panel before Halloween the week of October 23rd through the 27th. Miss Gates said yes for that week to do the panel. Ms. Menendez asked if we could all email her our class schedules so that she has an idea what everyone's availability for weekday events looks like. Ms. Menendez also reiterated that the expectation is not that all board members need to attend every event. Ms. Rodriguez mentioned that some students have night classes and events starting at 6:30 on certain weekdays may not work for night students. Ms. Menendez stated that whichever School chose to do the panel event could not be the same school that hosted the history event. Ms. Gates stated that New York law school can host the panel event with the National Latino law Students Association and she will ask New York law school to host the event.

Pa'Lante

Ms. Menendez stated that we have not received any bids from any schools regarding the Palante conference; the due date for these bids is September 5th. We are waiting to hear from New York law and Fordham law. Cardozo Law is submitting a proposal soon. Pace students on the board mentioned that pace is no longer allowed to host because Pace hosted an event in the last 3 years. Ms. Menendez asked that Ms. Gates send her New York law school's LALSA e-board. Miss Menendez stated that the Hispanic National Bar Association would like to collaborate on an event with us and asked if we could sell 20 to 25 tickets at \$35 each and if people buy a ticket they have to mention MetroLALSA. Miss Menendez wanted to discuss a possible spring event such as a dress for success Event that can help law students find work professional clothing, a clothing exchange, and find a partner with non-profit for the event so that whatever law students Donate can go to charity and in exchange they can receive professional clothing she would like to host this event post conference in April or May.

Dates To Know

Central Park picnic - August 20th
Bowling / yoga/salsa - September 15th / 16th
History event- Set 20th
Educational panel- Oct 23rd
Cafecito Network- October 4th (mean girls themed)
Dress for Success- Spring time

Membership

Ms. Menendez asked that all members put in their delegates email in the list that she has circulating. Ms. Menendez also stated that Gordon Reese donated to us and sent the check to the wrong address so Bernadette reached out to give the right address to them. Claudia is working with them to get this fixed. Ms. Menendez spoke to the cafecito network and they agreed to do an event but it would only be for female members in October. Ms. Rodriguez suggested merging the history and activity event into one week and do them in September and the cafesito network event in October. Ms. Gates suggested merging the Dress for Success event and cafecito. Ms. Fabian Pena says we should do it in the fall in October for the networking opportunity. The suggestion by the board is to have the cafecito network event be during the week and move the history event to the last 2 weeks of September on Wednesday the 20th.

Pipeline

The Board did not have a discussion regarding the pipeline as Mr. Santana is still working to make connections.

Miscellaneous

Miss Menendez brought up the merchandise that we would like to start selling for fundraising. Mr. Montoya was not in attendance and could not give us his update regarding a designer he had mentioned about possibly creating merchandise for us. Ms. Menendez would like us to figure this out as soon as possible to allow for as much time to fundraise. Ms. Menendez asked the board if they felt strongly about anything that we should or should not make in terms of merchandise. Ms. Gates stated that she thinks t-shirts and tote bags are a must Ms. Rodriguez stated that hats and stickers are a must and Mr. Santana agreed. Ms. Menendez asked that pricing be checked. Ms. Menendez asked Mr. Gonzalez if he knew anybody from the Dominican Bar Association that could help with the merchandise and Mr. Gonzalez stated that Mr. Montoya may have a better connection with a supplier. Mr. Gonzalez will give the board information regarding the vendor for Pins that the Dominican Bar Association uses, he said he will look into it and send us the information. Mr Gonzalez stated that we do need a simpler logo that can be put on merchandise and other materials that is solid one color. he also stated that we need someone to redesign our new logo to avoid legal trouble and we should not dispose of the old logo but rather create a second logo which is simpler and can be used on merchandise. Miss Menendez asked if there were any organizations or firms that would be willing to sponsor the Palante conference and Ms. Fabian Pena stated that Wilmer Hale is a possibility and Ms. Balano stated that Akin Gump is a possibility. Ms. Menendez stated that our former president gave us a list of names to reach out to. Ms. Menendez asked Ms. Rodriguez to fix the website to make it appealing. Mr. Gonzalez said that there is a disclaimer page on the Dominican bar association's website and he will send it over to add to our website. Ms. Rodriguez stated that she will fix and

add pictures to the website to make it appealing and ass that everyone fill out the Google form that has been sent.

3. **Action Items**

After she completed all the agenda items, Ms. Menendez outlined the action items:

1. Ms. Gates is to reach out to the yoga instructor she knows to see if it is possible to do a yoga event.
2. Mr. Gonzalez is to reach out to the alumni member that is a salsa instructor.
3. Ms. Menendez will look into bowling as a backup for the activity event.
4. Ms. Loarte- Ciudad will make a flier for the picnic potluck.
5. Ms. Menendez will create an Excel for the potluck sign up.
6. Board members will reach out to their schools to see if they would like to host the conference.
7. Board members will send Ms. Menendez their school schedules.
8. Ms. Gates will ask New York law school to host the event.
9. Mr. Gonzalez will give us the information for the pin vendor.
10. Board members will fill out the Google form.
11. Ms. Rodriguez will update the website.
12. The next board meeting will be in August.

4. **Adjourning**

As there were no other comments, Ms. Menendez thanked the Directors for their time and service on The Board and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

5. **Minutes Approval**

These minutes were approved by The Board on **September 17th, 2023.**