

[Ignite Women's Council - Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2023](#)

**Members Present:** Melissa Bilka, Dr. Debbie Conner, Dani Cashion, Hatton Gravely, Dr. Jessica Greene, Katie Hole, Lauren Morris, Ashley Nelson, Eileen Soisson, Anna Strickland, Melissa Zimmerman.

**Staff Present:** Cindy Gettig, Kema Parsley, Amanda Bailey.

**Meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m. by Cindy Gettig.**

Welcome & Introductions

Cindy Gettig

Updates:

Cindy Gettig

Kema Parsley

Panel Discussion

All speakers are confirmed. We will have Amy Lawrence with Lovely Law Firm, Heidi Vukov, Hook & Barrel and Olga Kazakova, Design the Sign as the panelist. The moderator will be Annette Peagler. The discussion topic is “How you Found Success”.

SC Teacher of the Year

Cindy Gettig

Lisa Bourcier with Horry County Schools reached out to Cindy to let her know some individuals from Horry County schools will be attending the conference. One of those attendees is Renee Atkinson, 2023-2024 SC Teacher of Year & English Teacher from Aynor High School. This is a huge accomplishment for our county as we have not had a representative win this award from our area in many years. Renee's role this year will be to go out and support and represent SC teachers around the United States and counties in South Carolina. She will be speaking at various functions and Lisa wanted to know if there was an opportunity of any sort for Renee to speak. Since all speakers are locked in and confirmed, there isn't much availability for her to speak formally, but we could honor her at the podium. Dr. Jessica Greene agreed that we needed to do something to honor her and her efforts. It's also a huge deal because she is not only a teacher in this area, but she grew up here and is proud of this county!

Ignite Merchandise

Amanda Bailey

Amanda showed all items that were chosen to be sold at the conference. The council loved all the various options we had. We chose three different items a journal, cup and t-shirt. Melissa Bilka asked if there could be an option to purchase the t-shirts ahead of

time and Cindy agreed there would be. This would allow individuals to wear their shirts at the conference and get more interest in others to buy the items.

### Other Discussion Items

Cindy Gettig

Kema is working with SV Bedding for our event décor. They will also have furniture around the bookstore and on stage.

### Discussion Items:

All

### Volunteer Opportunities

Kema Parsley

Kema is still working on the volunteer schedule and finalizing everything. We will need a lot of volunteers for this conference. Kema asked if there were any areas that the council would prefer to volunteer. The biggest areas we will need help with are set-up, which would be the day before, guiding exhibitors and speakers to their tables and the bookstore. Business Development will manage the registration table and there will be two different shifts for all areas. There will be a separate area for Precious's book signing, she has a flyer that will be at the table for individuals to purchase their books through the QR code on the flyer. The payment options will include Cash App and Venmo. Once they've purchased the book, they can show the receipt to the bookstore worker, and they can then get in line to take a picture and have their book signed by Precious. Kathy Strauss will take the photos for both Elizabeth Smart and Precious Williams. Dr. Debbie asked if the Ignite Store should be opened the entire time throughout the conference because she was afraid people may not listen to the speaker and shop instead. Kema and Katie Hole both said that they think it's wise to keep the store open because it will allow individuals that may be going to the bathroom to stop by when there isn't a line during main breaks to grab items. Do not think it will be a distraction from the speakers. Cindy asked if anyone on the council would volunteer to introduce the breakout speakers in their sessions. Lauren Morris, Eileen Soisson, Melissa Bilka and Hatton Gravely all volunteered. Hatton will be a floater in case someone is unable to fill their role on the day of the conference.

### Exhibitor Booth Space

Amanda Bailey

There are four exhibitor spaces left for a total of eighteen exhibitors. Lauren asked if the exhibitor list could be shared out. Cindy asked if Amanda could send out the ad flyer to the group.

Bookstore

Cindy Gettig

Mary is reaching out to speakers to get their suggestions on what they would like to have in the bookstore for attendees to purchase.

Next Meeting Date

Amanda Bailey

Amanda will send out a doodle poll to determine the final meeting date before the conference. Cindy would like to have it the first week of October.

**Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m. by Cindy Gettig**