

District 8 has reached out to a group here in Chicago called Polished Pebbles. They mentor girls on the south and west side to empower them. They would be interested in having the girls talk to lawyers and judges. District 8 also still plans to have a Mentor Jet with law students in the fall. District 8 will also co sponsor the Human Trafficking Committee webinar to take place July 7, which will have a focus on human trafficking and LGBTQ persons.

As the District Director who approved the resolution on the travel ban in states with legislation that is anti-transgender I attended the business meeting but was not given the opportunity to speak. The resolution was deferred to the annual meeting. Some who spoke were very insensitive to the concerns and needs of the LGBTQ community in general and NAWJ LGBTQ members in particular. Given the number of members opposing the resolution does not lend itself to a belief that there would be a different outcome at the annual meeting. After the NAWJ mid year a review was sent out for opinions. I voiced my opinions very clearly about the business meeting, particularly about the fact that many of us felt that the speakers against the resolution outweighed those in favor. Additionally, there was a concern that the Resolutions Committee exceeded its directive by offering a counter resolution. I discussed this with President Donahue and advocated that NAWJ issue a statement condemning all discrimination and hatred. I also advocated for education seminars to provide an understanding on the needs of the LGBTQ community. I am trying to find a path of unity to go forward on this, while addressing the very real concerns regarding safety that NAWJ LGBTQ members would experience in traveling to states with anti-transgender legislation and the mis-treatment of NAWJ LGBTQ members .