

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
April 4, 2018**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, at The Bayou in Easton, Pennsylvania - at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 P.M. by President Daniel M. O'Donnell. An Agenda for the meeting was circulated to the Members of the Board of Governors prior to the meeting. Members of the Board of Governors in attendance at the meeting were as follows:

**ATTENDEES (as marked):**

**Officers:**

Daniel M. O'Donnell, President  
 Lisa Spitale, President-Elect  
 Robert Eyer, Vice President  
 Maura Zajac McGuire, Treasurer  
 Paul J. Harak, Secretary  
 Michael P. Shay, Past President

**Board Members:**

David M. Backenstoe  
 Jeremy F. Clark  
 Jacqueline K. Holmes  
 Rebecca Kulik  
 Steven B. Molder  
 Michael A. Santanasto  
 Scott Wilhelm

**Executive Director:**

Mary Beth Leeson

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on March 8, 2018 were circulated for review. Wilhelm made a motion to approve the minutes and Clark seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

## **II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS**

President O'Donnell reported on the following matters:

A. O'Donnell reported that he received a thank you note from North Penn Legal Services for the NCBA \$15,000.00 donation.

B. O'Donnell reported he received a thank you note from Daniel E. Cohen for the 50 year recognition he received at the recent Judge's reception.

C. O'Donnell reported he received a thank you note from Penny Luse, spouse of Richard Luse, for the donation to the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke University honoring Richard Luse.

## **III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Maura Zajac McGuire presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Board. She announced the total balance as of March 31, 2018 was \$1,391,235.79. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and submitted for audit without exception. Wilhelm suggested moving some funds into Certificates of Deposit since interest rates were going up.

## **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Leeson reported on the following matters:

A. The final regional mock trial was held in Judge Smith's Courtroom and we had twelve NCBA Members acting as the jurors. The winning local team, Wyoming Seminary, also won the state tournament and will be competing nationally.

B. The 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Reception for the Court held on March 23, 2018 went well.

C. Spitale, President-Elect, and Director Leeson attended the Bar Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois and gained some good insight for next year.

D. President O'Donnell is going to present the Paralegal Award at the Northampton County Area Community College on April 26, 2018.

E. Joseph Holko, a Lehigh County attorney, called and advised that a client of Walter Morrissey, Esquire's, contacted him regarding taking over a case. Attorney Holko determined that Attorney Morrissey had a stroke and has been in Cedarbrook Nursing Home since November, 2017. This information sparked a discussion between the Governors regarding what action, if any, the NCBA should take if this happens to a Member. Member, Ellen Kraft, and Leeson are working on a process to address this matter, possibly by a form letter with pertinent information. O'Donnell stated that he will send a letter to the Solo Practice Committee and Ethics Committee to provide input regarding a situation when a sole practitioner is affected and cannot practice law.

## **V. PROGRAMS**

None.

## **VI. FOUNDATION UPDATE**

Director Santanasto advised that the Foundation is now planning on having a luncheon with a keynote speaker. There have been a number of names provided but no speaker has been chosen. The date for the luncheon is projected to be the spring of 2019.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

President O'Donnell reported that Judge Giordano has championed a change in the Bylaws to support a Member running for Judge, statewide. Presently, the Bylaws only allow for support of a Judge running for retention. The Board discussed the parameters for a change in the Bylaws, including how long someone needed to be a Member of the Association. It was determined that the Bylaw Committee would be asked to review this matter and potentially draft an Amendment to the Bylaws.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. The Board decided not to take any action regarding the redistricting of the Pennsylvania Voting Districts.

B. Director Harak made a brief presentation detailing the Building Committee's recent meeting and a meeting held at the Pomfret Club with individuals from the Pomfret Club and the Building Committee. The Building Committee requested that the Board approve the engagement of Nu Cor Management, Inc. and spend the \$6,500.00 to prepare a report detailing the anticipated scope of work and breakdown of associated costs as required to modify and upgrade the facility for the proposed use. The Board decided not to approve spending the \$6,500.00 with Nu Cor Management, Inc. until the Building Committee provided further details and terms regarding the proposed transaction with the Pomfret Club.

C. The October, 2018 Board of Governors Meeting may change dates and times. It may be held in Saratoga, New York.

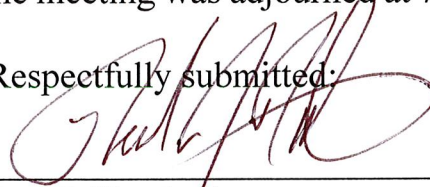
## **IX. TOPIC OF THE MONTH**

The Board entered into a spirited discussion about the benefits of being a Unit County Member. A Unit County Member receives more delegates in the Pennsylvania Bar Association. The local counties of Monroe, Bucks, Luzerne, Chester and Delaware are not Unit County Members. There is no dollar for dollar benefit in being a Unit County Member. If you are interested in the politics of the Pennsylvania Bar Association then it benefits a county to stay as a Unit County Member. There was discussion whether staying a Unit County Member helps level out the strength of the Philadelphia and Allegheny County Bar Associations and there was also discussion regarding how effective of a lobbying organization of the Pennsylvania Bar Association actually is. The Board decided, presently, not to pursue or present this matter beyond the discussion this evening.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Santanasto. The motion was seconded by Clark. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



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Paul J. Harak, Secretary