

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
September 5, 2018**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, September 5, 2018, at Kingfish - at 5:30 P.M. The meeting was called to order at 5:48 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:

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

Board Members:

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

Executive Director:

- X Mary Beth Leeson

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the previous meeting held on June 6, 2018 were circulated for review. McGuire made a motion to approve the minutes and Spitale seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Two votes were taken by the Board of Governors on motions, via email, in lieu of holding a meeting due to the necessity of acting quickly on a personnel matter. The first motion failed and the second motion passed by majority.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

President O'Donnell reported on the following matters:

A. A thank you note was received from Member, Thomas P. Stitt, regarding the Judges Reception.

B. Communication was received from Judge Hogan sending his regrets regarding his attendance at the Summer Outing since he will not be able to attend.

C. Correspondence was received from Raise a Glass reminding Members to attend the outing to be held on August 30, 2018.

D. An email was received on June 21, 2018 from Suzanne T. Cibotti, Communications Manager from the Pennsylvania Bar Association discussing the opioid epidemic and a public education campaign to be held in October of this year.

E. An email was received from Member, Victoria A. Coyle, inquiring if the Bar Association would run free ads for Meals on Wheels and the Board, as a group, responded that the Bar Association does not run free ads.

F. A thank you letter was received from Jean Littner, spouse of Robert H. Littner, deceased, thanking the Association for its donation to the Mr. and Mrs. Max Littner Memorial Lecture Series.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer McGuire presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Board. She announced the total balance as of July 31, 2018 was \$1,383,305.74 and the total balance as of August 31, 2018 was \$1,395,611.96.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Leeson reported on the following matters:

A. There is a conference for County Bar Leaders at Penn State University in February, 2019.

B. There are three Judges that are up for retention next year. President O'Donnell advised that he would write to see if they wanted a plebiscite for next year.

C. A lengthy discussion was had regarding a personnel matter.

D. A follow-up discussion continued regarding personnel issues and a motion was made by Clark that the Personnel Committee discuss whether there should be a formal policy regarding employees' leave of absence and severance, President O'Donnell seconded the motion and the motion passed by a vote of 10-1.

E. There is a Boy Scout Annual Breakfast and Judge Robert Freedberg will be honored. A date certain has not been set.

F. The reservations for the Bench Bar Conference in Saratoga Springs, New York are due on Friday, September 7, 2018.

G. A reminder that there is a Commonwealth Court dinner on September 17, 2018 at the Sun Inn and all are encouraged to attend.

H. A budget amendment is required for the Commonwealth Court dinner. Wilhelm made a motion to add \$1,000.00 to the special events line item and President O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. The Pennsylvania Bar Institute is in dire financial shape and the Pennsylvania Bar Association is taking over the operations of the Pennsylvania Bar Institute. As of September 1, 2018 the Northampton County Bar Association will no longer be reimbursed by the Pennsylvania Bar Association for food and beverage for any programs held by the Northampton County Bar Association (in the past the Northampton County Bar Association was reimbursed for continental breakfasts and occasionally lunch). Also the Pennsylvania Bar Association will email all the written materials for the courses, there will no longer be a yellow bound book and

one copy of the materials should be printed for the Northampton County Bar Association Office.

J. There is a memorial service for all the members who died in the past year on September 18, 2018 at the Northampton County Courthouse at 9:00 A.M. in Courtroom No. 1. All are encouraged to attend.

K. It was discussed whether to hold a bus trip or make tickets available for members for the production "To Kill a Mockingbird" which is scheduled to be presented in March, 2019.

V. PROGRAMS

Nothing to report.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Foundation Update - Santanasto advised that the Foundation has secured a firm date, May 1, 2019, at the Arts Quest venue. David Akers will hold a kicking clinic for children. The event will benefit the YMCA Summer Program. There are sub-committees forming to help with the event.

B. Another personnel issue was discussed.

C. By-Laws Committee Update – There is a need to discuss whether the Association should indicate if a judicial candidate is supported. The current policy is plebiscite regarding retention if the candidate requests it. The issue is whether the By-Laws should be amended to indicate if candidates are qualified, well qualified or not qualified for statewide positions, Court of Common Pleas positions, or Magisterial District Judge positions. President O'Donnell will draft the proposed By-Law revision for review.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nomination Committee – All officers will move up and Douglas J. Tkacik will be a new Board Member, Richard E. Santee, Jr. will be a new young Board Member and Steven B. Molder will fill the Secretary position.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Wilhelm. The motion was seconded by Shay. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:



Paul J. Harak, Secretary