# MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

**November 7, 2018** 

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, November 7, 2018, at Marblehead Chowder House - 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
	Steven B. Molder
X	Michael A. Santanasto
	Scott Wilhelm

# **Executive Director:**

X Mary Beth Leeson

## I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting held on October 10, 2018 were circulated for review. O'Donnell advised that the request from Lehigh University for a contribution was tabled to the next meeting. Holmes made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended, and McGuire seconded the motion to approve the minutes, as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

## II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

President O'Donnell reported on the following matters:

- A. A letter was received from Heather Rizzotto-Stefanik thanking the Bar Association for our support.
- B. A letter was received from the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley. After a discussion by the Board, Shay made a motion and Clark seconded the motion for O'Donnell to request more information from the organization before evaluating a donation. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Communication was received from Isaac A. Hof regarding the Holiday Hope Chest requesting \$1,000.00 donation. After discussion and learning that it was just a change to the budget and that the donation could be reflected with a budget change, Spitale made a motion to donate \$1,000.00 and Kulik seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.
- D. Austin Margulies of Lehigh University sent a letter requesting a contribution to their Mock Trial Team. Eyer, who helps the team, presented a synopsis for the need for the funds. Eyer advised that the team is officially sanctioned but the school does not fund them. After discussion, Santanasto made a motion to make a contribution to the team from funds from the 2019 fiscal year of the Association. The motion was seconded by O'Donnell. The motion passed by a majority with Spitale and Holmes voting against the motion and Kulik abstaining.
- E. It was noted that Raise a Glass to Justice through North Penn Legal Services raised \$7,500.00. \$2,500.00 contributions were made by the Northampton County Bar Association and Lehigh County Bar Association. It was noted that the event was not as lucrative for North Penn Legal Services as it was other years.

- F. Judge Dally, Judge McFadden and Judge Koury are up for retention and they will be approached and offered a plebiscite.
  - G. Naturalization Court on Monday, November 5, 2018 was well attended.
- H. The Memorial Service on November 6, 2018 was well attended. Shay advised that the microphone at the podium is an issue and should be addressed.
- I. There was discussion regarding the articles in the local newspapers recently criticizing Judge Zito.

#### 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 October 31, 2018 was \$1,373,934.76.

#### IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Leeson reported on the following matters:

- A. The Peoples' Law School has concluded and it was a great success.
- B. Doughnut Day was held on November 2, 2018. After discussion, the Board determined that it should continue next year.
  - C. Please attend the Quarterly Meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2018.
- D. The Holiday Hope Chest donations are due and should be sent in no later than Monday, November 12, 2018, with shopping to occur on November 13, 2018.
- E. An inquiry was made regarding who can attend the service for deceased Member, Paul Florenz, on November 16, 2018.
- F. It was brought to the Board's attention that Dan O'Donnell spoke at a recent Palmer Kiwanis meeting.
- G. Inquiry was made regarding who was attending the breakfast for Judge Freedberg held by the Boy Scouts on November 15, 2018.

H. Judge Robert Young, who formerly at sat on the bench in Lehigh County, has authored a book. The book is being sold for \$18.00 by the Bar Association and all money will be donated to the Northampton County Bar Association Foundation.

#### V. PROGRAMS

Eyer advised that there will be an ethics update program at the Quarterly Association Meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2018 presented by Sandra Miller, Esquire.

#### VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Foundation Update Santanasto advised that funds from event at Arts Quest will now be split with the YMCA on a dollar-for-dollar basis from dollar one. Sub-committees have been formed and they are looking for more volunteers. Presently, the Foundation is working on trying to identify sponsors, who should be sponsorship letters and levels of sponsorship. The Sponsorship Committee could use some extra volunteers.
- B. By-Laws Committee Update President O'Donnell advised that he made changes to the By-Laws and the revised draft is being presented to an individual experienced in non-profit law to make sure that the Association's status is not impacted.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Lehigh University Mock Trial Request Previously addressed in the President's Report.
- B. Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley Request Previously addressed in the President's Report.
- C. Young Lawyer Division Request Previously addressed in the President's Report.
- D. Judge Simpson and Lehigh University Projects. President O'Donnell will contact Judge Simpson to discuss ideas to interact with the local universities.

E. Jeremy F. Clark relayed that he participated with an elementary school that visited the Courthouse. The tour consisted of the Courts but also the Row Offices and the Sheriff's Office. The students were fifth graders from March Elementary School. Clark advised that the field trip was a positive experience for the children.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by McGuire. The motion was seconded by Kulik. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Paul J./Harak, \$ecretary