

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at River Grille, 243 Northampton Street, Easton, Pennsylvania, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:43 p.m. by President Michael P. Shay. 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:**

- Michael P. Shay, President
- Daniel M. O'Donnell, President-Elect
- Lisa Spitale, Vice President
- Robert Eyer, Treasurer
- Maura Zajac McGuire, Secretary
- Alyssa A. Lopiano-Reilly, Past President

**Board Members:**

- David M. Backenstoe
- Paul J. Harak
- Rebecca Kulik
- Steven B. Molder
- Michael A. Santanasto
- Scott Wilhelm
- Jacqueline K. Holmes

**Executive Director:**

- Mary Beth Leeson

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the previous meeting held on December 7, 2016, were circulated for review. Backenstoe made a motion to approve the minutes. Eyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

President Shay reported on the following matters:

Shay welcomed new Board Member, Jacqueline K. Holmes.

Shay noted the passing of William G. Ross, former member and a past president of the NCBA. Attorney Ross will be memorialized on September 19, 2017 at the NCBA Memorial Service.

The Reception for the Court will be held on Friday, March 24, 2017 at Northampton Country Club. Martin D. Cohen, Herbert G. Litvin, Alan B. McFall, and Henry R. Newton will be honored for their 50 years of membership in the NCBA.

December 21, 2016 correspondence was received from The Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley, thanking the Northampton County Bar Association for the donation of \$2,000 to fund the purchase of books for the Volunteer Center's MLK Day of Service.

Shay has been recruiting chairpersons for various NCBA committees. A chairperson is in place for all committees except the Committee on Legal Biography and History. Larry Fox, the only member of that committee, has served as chairperson for three (3) years. The NCBA Bylaws preclude Fox from continuing to serve as chairperson. Following a discussion, it was agreed that Shay will make an announcement at the Annual Association Meeting, seeking a volunteer to chair this committee.

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

Eyer presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Board. Eyer announced the total balance as of December 31, 2016 as follows: \$1,356,026.14. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and submitted for audit without exception.

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

Executive Director Leeson reported on the following matters:

The NCBA is in the process of receiving 2017 dues and committee preference forms from members.

The new NCBA photo directory is in progress. Photographs are complete and members have received a link to view proofs of their individual photographs. Members have until January 18<sup>th</sup> to select a photograph for use in the directory.

Forms for the January 19, 2017 Annual Association Meeting have been provided to members.

The NCBA Summer Outing has been scheduled for Thursday, July 20, 2017 at Louise Moore Park.

### **V. PROGRAMS**

Spitale reported that the program for the January 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Association Meeting will focus on firearm safety and regulations, as presented by Jonathan S. Goldstein. The program for the March 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Meeting will feature Victoria White of the PBA speaking about the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Ethics Hotline.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

USI Affinity has not responded to correspondence concerning the amount due and owing to NCBA for sponsorship at the 2016 Bench Bar Conference. The Board decided to wait to see if a response is received by the February meeting before discussing further action.

Members discussed the possibility of revisiting the issue of waiving NCBA dues for law clerks at a future meeting.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

The PBA Conference of County Bar Leaders will be held in State College on February 23-25. The agenda lists impressive programs. All board members are encouraged to attend.

Shay announced a new feature to the Board of Governors meetings, called "Topic of the Month". A Board Member will be pre-selected before each meeting to be responsible for initiating a topic of conversation at that meeting. Lopiano-Reilly was selected to introduce a topic at the February meeting. O'Donnell volunteered to be responsible for the topic of the month in March.


Santanasto reported that the NCBA Foundation has had its first meeting, which included formal appointment of its board members. Meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at the NCBA Office, at 12:00 p.m. Board members are enthusiastic about the foundation. It is anticipated that the foundation will hold its first full event in Spring 2018.

At the NCBA Quarterly Meetings, under New Business, Shay will invite members to raise any issue that they would like to bring to the Board's attention.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kulik. The motion was seconded by Spitale. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Kingfish, 3833 Freemansburg Avenue, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, 18020.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Maura Zajac McGuire