

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
February 1, 2017**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2017, at Kingfish American Bistro at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:43p.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:

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

Board Members:

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

Executive Director:

- X Mary Beth Leeson

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting held on January 4, 2017, were circulated for review. Eyer made a motion to approve the minutes. Spitale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

President Shay reported on the following matters:

The Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network will present a 2017 Excellence Award to NCBA member Jill Kelly McComsey. The Awards Banquet will be held on March 28, 2017 and information is available for those who wish to attend.

Correspondence was received from the members of the NCBA Staff expressing appreciation for their salaries and bonuses approved by the Board for 2017.

Correspondence was received from Calvary Baptist Church thanking the Board for the donation of \$100 in memory of William Ross.

A report was received from Ralph Bellafatto, Chairman of the NBCA Legal Ethics Committee. After review of applicable rules, the committee sees no ethical violation with the NCBA paying bar dues for the judges' law clerks. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that this issue will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

Correspondence was received from Jill Kelly McComsey announcing that the annual Raise a Glass to Justice event, to benefit North Penn Legal Services, will be held on August 10, 2017 at Blue Events Center. O'Donnell made a motion to donate the sum of \$2,500 to the event. The motion was seconded by Spitale and passed unanimously.

The Reception for the Court will be held on Friday, March 24, 2017 at Northampton Country Club. Shay was informed that Henry R. Newton, one of the 50-year honorees, will not be attending. Martye Cohen, a 50-year honoree, has requested the opportunity to have his wife attend with him. Following a discussion by the Board, a motion was made by Lopiano-Rielly that each 50-year honoree be permitted to bring one guest to the Reception for the Court at the expense of the NCBA. The motion was seconded by Harak and passed unanimously.

Shay acknowledged the passing of former NCBA member, Thomas Fisher.

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 January 31, 2017 as follows: \$1,453,589.74. 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:

Thomas Fisher will be added to the list of those to be remembered at the NCBA Memorial Service.

Leeson distributed a chart showing the Lunch Lectures held in 2016. Quite a few were organized by the NCBA, rather than a committee. Committees are encouraged to schedule more programs in 2017.

Leeson is awaiting confirmation from the Court regarding dates for the High School Mock Trial Competition, which is tentatively scheduled for the following dates: February 13, 14, 27 and 28. Volunteers are needed to serve as jurors.

The next Bar Buddies event will be held on March 16, 2017 at the Sun Inn Tavern in Bethlehem. All Board Members are encouraged to attend.

Leeson has experienced some difficulty dealing with BB&T Bank. It was agreed that Leeson should look into the possibility of switching to Merchants Bank or Embassy Bank.

V. PROGRAMS

Spitale reported that the program for the March 9, 2017 Quarterly Meeting will feature Victoria White of the PBA speaking about the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Ethic's Hotline.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Lopiano-Reilly reported that neither she nor Leeson received a response to the letter sent to the CEO of USI Affinity concerning the amount due to the NCBA for sponsorship at the 2016 Bench Bar Conference. It was agreed that Lopiano-Reilly would call the CEO to discuss the matter.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Shay reported that he received a request from NCBA member John Thomas, who retired from his position as the Paralegal Program Coordinator at Northampton Community College in 2014. Thomas requests that the Board consider offering some category of membership to the new Paralegal Program Coordinator, Amy VanVarick, a licensed NJ attorney. Following a discussion, Shay made a motion to refer the issue to the Bylaws Committee to address the expansion of membership to include individuals holding the position of Paralegal Program Coordinator at Northampton Community College and any other like positions. Wilhelm seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with McGuire abstaining.

Santanasto reported that the NCBA Foundation held its second meeting. At that meeting, it was acknowledged that the NCBA does not have a specific

charitable mission. The Foundation will focus on developing the charitable mission of the NCBA and will begin discussing this at its next meeting.

Lopiano-Reilly presented the "Topic of the Month". She asked the Board to "sneeze" and spread the word about the NCBA to members who are not involved. Board members should take initiative and encourage people to participate in committees and functions. A good way to begin is by contacting new members following a quarterly meeting to welcome them and encourage them to attend an upcoming event. Shay noted that it is also important to encourage former officers of the Board to remain actively involved. O'Donnell will present the "topic of the Month" at the next meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Backenstoe. The motion was seconded by Eyer. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board meeting on Wednesday, March 1, 2017 at Marblehead, Chowder House, 4101 Willaim Penn Highway, Easton, PA 18045.

Respectfully submitted:

Maura Z. McGuire

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