

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
QUARTERLY ASSOCIATION MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2017**

The March Quarterly Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association was held on Thursday, March 9, 2017, at the Best Western Conference Center, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM**

The March Quarterly Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2017, was called to order by President Michael P. Shay at 6:08 p.m. A quorum was present at the time the meeting was called to order. President Shay began the meeting by asking all present to participate in a moment of silence in honor of former member Thomas Fisher, who passed away on January 24, 2017. The following officers of the NCBA were present when the meeting was called to order:

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

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson was also in attendance.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Annual Association Meeting of January 19, 2017 were distributed and reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by member Nicholas Noel and was seconded by member Jeremy Clark. The motion was approved unanimously by the members in attendance at the meeting.

**III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

The following proposed new members appeared at the meeting for admission into membership of the NCBA:

Kevin H. Conrad (Sponsored by Leo V. DeVito and John S. Harrison)

Peter E. Iorio (Sponsored by Gretchen Geisser and Joshua Gildea)  
Amy Kruzel (Sponsored by Lauren Sorrentino and R. Nicholas Nanovic)  
Brittany M. Randall (Sponsored by John Sweet and Victoria Coyle)

After introduction of the proposed new members, a motion was made by member John Obrecht and seconded by member Christopher Shipman to admit the above-listed attorneys into membership in the NCBA. The motion was unanimously approved by the members in attendance at the meeting and all proposed new members were accepted into membership of the NCBA.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **A. Bar Buddies**

The next Bar Buddies event will be held on March 16, 2017 at Two Rivers Brewing Company at 5:30 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

##### **B. Reception for the Court**

The Reception for the Court is scheduled for Friday, March 24, 2017 at Northampton Country Club. All members are encouraged to attend. The following attorneys will be honored to celebrate the achievement of 50-years practicing law and a current NCBA member: Martin D. Cohen, Herbert G. Litvin, Alan McFall, and Henry R. Newton.

##### **C. Calendar on back of Agenda**

A calendar on the back of the Agenda for this meeting lists upcoming NCBA meetings and events. Members are encouraged to participate in meetings and events.

#### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

There is no correspondence other than a letter concerning PA Senate Bill - Property Tax Independence Act, which will be addressed under Old Business.

## **VI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's Report, which was previously circulated for review by members in attendance, was accepted for audit, with no questions posed by the membership.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. NCBA Foundation**

Member Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly reported the NCBA Foundation has had two meetings since the Annual Association Meeting. The Foundation drafted a policy for charitable giving, which was approved by the Board of Governors at its last meeting. The Foundation also developed a loose timeline of activities and anticipates holding a kickoff event in Spring 2018. Members are encouraged to submit suggestions for speakers from the community to Michael Santanasto.

### **B. Building Committee**

Member Joanne Kelhart reported the Building Committee has gained new members and has some ideas to discuss at its next meeting in two weeks. Alternatives for moving forward are being considered, for the safety of staff and members. Members are encouraged to share ideas with the committee.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Pennsylvania Senate Bill – Property Tax Independence Act**

President Shay asked members to review correspondence received from the Montgomery County Bar Association, which was distributed to members present. The Montgomery County Bar Association is requesting that other associations join them in opposing the proposed imposition of a sales tax on legal services.

Member Phil Hof moved for passage of the following Resolution: "Whereas the Northampton County Bar Association finds abhorrent the implementation of a sales tax to be levied on legal services, we hereby urge our legislatures to vote 'no' on the Bill known as the Property Tax

Independence Act”. Member Joel Scheer proposed an amendment to incorporate the bullet points from the February 21, 2017 letter from the Montgomery County Bar Association, setting forth those points as the basis for our objection to the Bill. The proposed amendment was accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

Member Nicholas Noel suggested that individual members write letters to state senators and representatives, expressing opposition to the proposed sales tax on legal services. President Shay agreed to send correspondence in this regard to senators and representatives in Northampton County on behalf of the NCBA.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Dee Mondschein Request for Board Members**

President Shay announced that Dee Mondschieen, daughter of the late John Mondschieen, Esquire, plans to establish a non-profit entity in Nazareth for the purpose of fighting the heroin epidemic by providing an after-school program and other support for at-risk teens. She is looking for attorneys who would be willing to volunteer pro bono services and/or serve on a board. Copies of an e-mail from Ms. Mondschieen were made available to any members who are interested.

### **B. Northampton County Court Administration Request for Old Clothing**

President Shay announced that Court Administrator Jermaine Green is seeking donations of gently used suits and other appropriate clothing for criminal defendants to wear for court proceedings.

## **X. BARRISTERS’ BOAST AND OPEN FORUM**

### **A. Barristers’ Boast**

Congratulations and an enthusiastic rendition of “Happy Birthday” were extended to member Raymond DeRaymond, who celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Congratulations and best wishes were extended to member Karl Kline, who plans to retire and move to the Pittsburgh area.

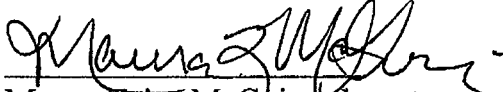
B. Open Forum

No new matters were raised during the Open Forum.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by member Richard Kovacs and seconded by member Christopher Reid. The motion was unanimously approved by the members in attendance at the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Maura Zajac McGuire, Secretary