

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
April 5, 2017**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at The Widows Tavern, 200 Main Street, Stockertown, PA, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:39 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:

- X Michael P. Shay, President
- X Daniel M. O'Donnell, President-Elect
- X Lisa Spitale, Vice President
- 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
- 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 March 1, 2017, were circulated for review. Lopiano-Reilly noted that a reference to her should be deleted, as she was not present at the last meeting, Wilhelm made a motion to approve the minutes, with that correction. Kulik seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

President Shay reported on the following matters:

Communication was received from the Alzheimer's Association thanking the NCBA for the donation in memory of former Member Thomas Fisher.

Shay thanked Board members for their attendance at the Reception for the Court. All present agreed that it was a very enjoyable event.

Shay thanked Board members who contacted new NCBA members to encourage attendance at the Reception for the Court and the Quarterly Meeting. Positive feedback was received from new members who were made to feel welcome. The Board agreed that one of its priorities is to increase young lawyers' participation in NCBA events.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Spitale presented the Treasurer's Report for Eyer, who was unable to attend the meeting. The Treasurer's Report was previously circulated for review by the Board. Leeson noted that the new general account with Embassy Bank appears in this report. Spitale announced the total balance as of March 31, 2017 as follows: \$1,387,466.04. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and submitted for audit without exception.

The 2016 End of Year Financial Reports were distributed to the Board members. Leeson noted that, as of today's date, the NCBA has 520

members, which she believes to be the highest number in its history. The Board will discuss any questions at the next meeting.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Leeson reported on the following matters:

The first check due to North Penn Legal Services for the approved donation by the NCBA has been sent.

Member James Sensor has graciously accepted the Board's offer to send him to the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Young Lawyers Summit, which will be held at the Penn Stater Conference Center July 26th-28th.

The NCBA received a membership request from James McDaniel, Esquire, who recently moved to Northampton County from Virginia. Attorney McDaniel intends to practice law in the federal courts only and does not plan to obtain a Pennsylvania law license. The Board agreed that this is related to the proposed changes to the Bylaws, which is on the agenda under Old Business.

V. PROGRAMS

Spitale reported that she is in the process of discussions with Deputy Sheriff George Volpe about updating his presentation on gangs for a Quarterly Meeting. She is considering a presentation on the potential legalization of medical marijuana for a future meeting. Holmes offered information about possible speakers on that topic.

USI Affinity will be sponsoring and attending the May 18th malpractice avoidance seminar. After a discussion, it was decided that no action will be taken at this time concerning the funds due to the NCBA for sponsorship of the Bench-Bar Conference.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Lopiano-Reilly provided a report for the NCBA Charitable Foundation Committee. At its meeting last week, the Committee decided to inquire as to whether Meals on Wheels of the Lehigh Valley would be interested in partnering with the Committee for an event to be held in Spring 2018. The Committee believes that this organization has a likelihood of drawing a good number of people to an event.

A discussion was held regarding dues for young members. The Board will continue the discussion at the next meeting.

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Bylaws received from the Bylaws Committee, concerning different categories of membership. After a discussion, it was agreed that Harak, Lopiano-Reilly, and Kulik will review the particular sections of the Bylaws and come up with additional suggested revisions for the next meeting.

Lopiano-Reilly reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Building Committee. The Committee decided to retain an architect to explore the potential for a work-out of the Pomfret Club to suit the needs of the NCBA. If the architect determines that such a project is feasible, the next step would be to retain a contractor to provide a cost estimate. If the Committee gets both an acceptable architectural plan and a reasonable construction cost estimate, the Pomfret Club would be contacted to discuss potential arrangements. Lopiano-Reilly provided information concerning an alternative property and agreed to pass that information on to the Building Committee Chairperson.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

O'Donnell provided a report from the Finance Committee. At its most recent meeting, the Finance Committee reviewed the current investment strategy and determined that it is appropriately conservative. The Committee decided to continue depositing a nominal amount in reserve, and will consider increasing that amount in the future. The Committee anticipates hearing

from its financial advisor concerning suggestions for the Morgan Stanley account shortly.

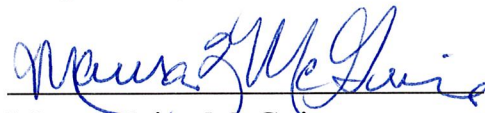
The Board discussed a request from the American Bar Association, seeking cooperation in opposing the President's proposed budget cuts to funding for legal services for financially disadvantaged individuals. After a discussion, the Board agreed that Shay will send a letter on behalf of the Board to our U.S. Representatives and Senators stating our concerns and the significant negative impact such action would have on legal services, particularly for those in Pennsylvania currently served by North Penn Legal Services.

The Topic of the Month is deferred until the next meeting, at which time Santanaso will lead the discussion,

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Backenstoe. The motion was seconded by Harak. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at the Cafe, 221 West Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Maura Zajac McGuire