

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
MAY 3, 2017**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017, at the Cafe, 221 West Broad Street, Bethlehem, PA, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:32 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 April 5, 2017, were circulated for review. O'Donnell made a motion to approve the minutes and Harak seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

President Shay reported on the following matters:

As discussed and agreed at the previous Board meeting, Shay sent a letter on behalf of the Board to Pennsylvania Senators and local U.S. Representatives opposing the President's proposed budget cuts to funding for legal services for financially disadvantaged individuals. Shay received a responsive e-mail from Senator Casey's office, indicating that the letter was sent to his legislative staff for review.

In accordance with the Resolution passed at the March Quarterly Association Meeting, Shay sent a letter on behalf of the NCBA to state senators and representatives with Northampton County constituents opposing the implementation of a sales tax to be levied on legal services, which is included in the Property Tax Independence Act. He has received no responses.

Shay attended a meeting of the NCBA Young Lawyers' Division today. He was impressed with the attendance and the enthusiasm at the meeting. Shay encouraged the Board to consider ways to increase involvement of our YLD members in NCBA activities.

Another successful and enjoyable Bar Buddies event was held last week at the Social Still in Bethlehem.

Shay attended the Northampton Community College Award Ceremony and presented an award from the NCBA to the graduate of the paralegal program with the highest GPA. He had the opportunity to meet Amy VanVarick, the Paralegal Program Director, who has requested an associate membership in the NCBA.

Shay sent a letter to President Judge Baratta so that he is aware a question had been raised concerning continuation of the practice of waiving NCBA dues for law clerks. Judge Baratta will be coming to the meeting later tonight.

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 April 30, 2017

as follows: \$1,367,261.82. 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 Family Law Committee's CLE Program on practice before the divorce masters was closed at 50 participants. The program was filmed for future viewing by members. Leeson will look for a higher table to purchase for a better result when filming CLE programs at the NCBA building.

The Zone 2 Caucus in preparation for the upcoming House of Delegates Meeting will be held tomorrow evening. The House of Delegates Meeting will be held in Pittsburgh on May 12, 2017.

The May Quarterly Association Meeting will be held on May 18, 2017 at 12:00. The program will be the annual Avoiding Legal Malpractice Seminar.

Leeson has a list of new NCBA members who were admitted at the January and March Quarterly Meetings, along with their contact information. She will provide the list to Board members who have volunteered to call new members and encourage attendance at the May Quarterly Meeting.

Former NCBA Member Bruce Davis passed away on March 16th. He will be included in the NCBA Memorial Service in the Fall and a contribution will be made in his name to an appropriate charity.

V. PROGRAMS

Spitale reported that Deputy Sheriff George Volpe will present his program on gang awareness at the September Quarterly Meeting. She is working on a program on the potential legalization of medical marijuana for the last meeting of 2017.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Santanasto provided a report for the NCBA Charitable Foundation Committee. The Committee decided to partner with an existing non-profit group for its first major event. Santanasto and Leeson will be meeting with the directors of Meals on Wheels of Lehigh and Northampton Counties on May 9th. The Foundation Committee cancelled its April meeting,

anticipating that Santanasto and Leeson will have more information to report following the May 9th meeting.

Judge Baratta came to the meeting to discuss the issue of continuation of the waiver of NCBA dues for law clerks, now that some clerks continue employment beyond the traditional 1-2 years. He presented the history of this issue and the Court's concerns. The Board thanked Judge Baratta for his attendance and input. After some discussion, the Board decided to table further discussion on this issue until the next meeting.

The Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Bylaws prepared by Harak, Lopiano-Reilly, and Kulik, concerning categories of NCBA membership. Board members will review the proposed amendments in preparation for consideration at the next Board meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Santanasto presented the "Topic of the Month". He informed the Board of a medical study at the University of Pennsylvania about the body's reaction to stress in modern society. The response of our bodies to a stressful work-related situation today is the same physiological response a person would have had many years ago when being chased by a tiger. We have chosen a profession that involves stressful situations. We need to be mindful of our need to handle stress so that our body functions are not inhibited. Members discussed strategies for alleviating stress including exercise, nutrition, yoga, organization, and getting enough sleep.

Holmes volunteered to present the "Topic of the Month" at the next meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Santanasto. The motion was seconded by Eyer. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at the Northampton County Bar Association Building at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Maura Z. McGuire

Maura Zajac McGuire, Secretary