

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
QUARTERLY ASSOCIATION MEETING  
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017**

The May Quarterly Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association was held on Thursday, May 18, 2017, at the Best Western Conference Center, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM**

The May Quarterly Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2017, was called to order by President Michael P. Shay at 12:37 p.m. A quorum was present at the time the meeting was called to order. 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  
Robert Eyer, Treasurer  
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 March Quarterly Association Meeting of March 9, 2017 were distributed and reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Joel Scheer and was seconded by Member Brian Lawser. 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:

Adrienne E. Doll (Sponsored by David M. Ceraul and Michael Thompson)  
Matthew P. Hall (Sponsored by Candy Barr Heimbach and Michelle Wilson)

After introduction of the proposed new members, a motion was made by Member Greg Reed and seconded by Member Joel Scheer 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 Thursday, May 25, 2017 at Third & Ferry Fish Market at 5:30 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

##### **B. Holiday Hope Chest Happy Hour**

The Young Lawyers' Division will hold a Happy Hour at The Apollo, 85 W. Broad Street, Bethlehem, on Thursday, June 15, 2017. All money raised at this event will be used for Holiday Hope Chest. Members are encouraged to support this worthwhile cause and come see the NCBA's "Celebrity Bartenders" in action.

##### **B. Annual Summer Outing**

The NCBA Annual Summer Outing is scheduled for Thursday, July 20, 2017. All members are encouraged to attend and join in the various events.

##### **C. Iron Pigs Game**

The NCBA has reserved two Dugout Suites at Coca-Cola Park for an Iron Pigs game on Tuesday, August 8, 2017. Interested members are invited to reserve seats ASAP.

#### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

President Shay reported receiving correspondence from the American Bar Association's Governmental Affairs Office, seeking cooperation in opposing the President's proposed budget cuts to funding for legal services for

financially disadvantaged individuals. At the April Meeting of the Board of Governors, the Board authorized Shay to send a letter on behalf of the Board to our U.S. Representatives and Senators explaining the significant negative impact such action would have on legal services, particularly for those in Pennsylvania currently served by North Penn Legal Services.

Shay reported receiving a response to the above-referenced letter from Senator Casey, indicating that the Senator forwarded the letter to his legal bureau in Washington D.C. Shay reported that he also received a response from Representative Cartwright, citing his record for supporting legal services. Shay reported receiving no response from Representative Dent or Senator Toomey.

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

Treasurer Eyer presented the Treasurer's Report, which was previously circulated for review by members in attendance. Eyer announced the total balance of all accounts as of April 30, 2017 to be: \$1,367,261.82. The Treasurer's Report was accepted for audit.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Young Lawyers' Division**

Shay reported that he attended a recent meeting of the Young Lawyers' Division, as an ad hoc member. He was impressed with the attendance and the enthusiasm at the meeting. Shay encouraged young members to participate in more of the NCBA's activities and committees. He reminded young members that our Membership is always glad to receive questions and suggestions from our young lawyers.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

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

President Shay reminded members of the discussion at the March Quarterly Meeting concerning the proposed imposition of a sales tax on legal services. In accordance with the Resolution passed at that meeting, Shay sent a letter

to all state legislators who represent Northampton County constituents urging them to vote against the Property Tax Independence Act. Shay indicated that he did not receive any responses.

Member Joel Scheer reported on a discussion that took place at the recent House of Delegates Meeting. The Pennsylvania Bar Association is considering the proposed imposition of sales tax on legal services as a real threat at this juncture. The PBA has not taken formal action against the proposal. Scheer has written to Senator Lisa Boscola and Representative Robert Freeman, stating his concerns. He received a response from Representative Freeman indicating his opposition to the proposal.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Easton Elementary School Reading Program**

Member Michael Vargo made a presentation regarding a new proposed program for elementary school students. As some children may live in homes without books and/or someone to read to them, this program would involve attorneys volunteering to read to children in classrooms. Monetary donations for books to provide to students would also be sought. This program has operated successfully in the Saucon Valley School District through efforts from the local Rotary Club. Vargo indicated that the NCBA has been asked to participate in this program in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms in the Easton School District. Initially, the program would run only in schools receiving Title I assistance. Vargo asked for a show of hands of members who would consider participating, in order to gauge interest. Numerous members indicated an interest. Vargo indicated he would draft a formal proposal.

### **B. NCBA Foundation Update**

Member Michael Santanasto provided a report for the NCBA Charitable Foundation Committee. The Committee is working with Meals on Wheels of Northampton and Lehigh Counties to plan 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.

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

### **A. Barristers' Boast**

President Shay asked the Membership to join him in congratulating Member Holly Frompovicz on the birth of her son, Caleb, in April. Shay noted that Caleb has already attended a Bar Buddies function and likely is the youngest person to ever attend an NCBA event.

President Shay asked the Membership to join him in congratulating Member Jessica Moyer for being named a 2017 Woman of Influence by Lehigh Valley Business.

President Shay asked the Membership to join him in congratulating Judge Emil Giordano for his victory in the primary election. Judge Giordano will be a candidate for the Pennsylvania Superior Court in the general election.

### **B. Open Forum**

No new matters were raised during the Open Forum.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Past President Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly and seconded by Member Michael Vargo. The motion was unanimously approved by the members in attendance at the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Maura Zajac-McGuire, Secretary