

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
QUARTERLY ASSOCIATION MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2017**

The September Quarterly Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association was held on Thursday, September 14, 2017, at the Best Western Conference Center, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM**

The September Quarterly Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association scheduled for Thursday, September 14, 2017, was called to order by President Michael P. Shay at 6:07 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 May Quarterly Association Meeting of May 18, 2017 were distributed and reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Greg Reed and was seconded by Member Richard Kovacs. 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:

Brandon Benner (Sponsored by Scott Wilhelm and Richard Kovacs)  
Tina Marie Evangelista (Sponsored by Jordan Knisley and Stanley Margle)

Susan A. Lawless (Sponsored by Robert M. Donchez and Hon. Robert A. Freedberg)

After introduction of the proposed new members, a motion was made by Member Greg Reed and seconded by Member Nicholas Noel 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. Memorial Service**

The Annual Memorial Service will be held on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 1. The following members whom we have lost this past year will be remembered: Bruce Davis, Thomas Fischer and William Ross. Member Frank Danyi's family has elected to have him remembered in next year's service. As Member Peg Poswistilo passed away very recently, she will also be remembered in next year's service to give her family time to grieve.

##### **B. Amicus Soiree**

The Amicus Soiree will be held on October 27, 2017 at the National Museum of Industrial History. All are encouraged to attend.

##### **C. Donut Day and "Love Your Lawyer Day"**

All Members are invited to stop in the jury lounge for donuts and coffee at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate national "Love your Lawyer Day".

##### **D. Calendar**

Members are encouraged to attend the upcoming events listed on the reverse side of the meeting agenda.

E. Mock Trial Committee Chair

A chairperson is needed for the Mock Trial Committee. Any volunteers are asked to contact President Michael Shay or President-Elect Daniel O'Donnell.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

President Shay reported receiving a letter from President Judge Baratta regarding Local Rules to be enacted, in light of the Pennsylvania Courts Public Access Policy, which will become effective in January 2018. Judge Baratta requested input from various committee chairpersons and members of the Bar. Two meetings have been held involving Judge Baratta and NCBA members to discuss the relevant issues. The Court will publish Local Rules to address (1) the procedure to protect confidential information in court filings from being available to the public and (2) the procedure for e-filing documents. The Board is contemplating having a program at the November Quarterly Meeting on this topic. Any members with knowledge of the issues are asked to volunteer to participate in planning and presenting the program.

Shay reported receiving correspondence from Judge Joseph F. Leeson, Jr. indicating that he, as well as Judge Edward Smith and Judge Henry Perkin, would be glad to hold an admission ceremony for NCBA Members to be admitted to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, if there is interest. A show of hands at the meeting demonstrated that most members present are already admitted to practice in the Eastern District. Member Barbara Hollenbach suggested that an e-mail be sent to gauge interest among the NCBA's younger members.

**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 August 31, 2017 to be: \$1,368,348.87. The Treasurer's Report was accepted for audit.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. NCBA Charitable Foundation**

Past-President Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly provided a report for the NCBA Charitable Foundation Committee. The committee has met twice since the May Quarterly Association Meeting. The committee is seeking ideas for a Spring event that would draw donors, including non-lawyers. All members are encouraged to bring their ideas to the committee. Volunteers are being sought to fill positions on the Foundation Committee and serve on sub-committees.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Young Lawyers' Division – Holiday Hope Chest**

Member Jordan Knisley reported that the Young Lawyers' Division is starting its Holiday Hope Chest Project and hopes to continue its tradition of success with this worthwhile cause. Information will be distributed soon and all members are encouraged to make a donation.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Report on Young Lawyers Division Summer Meeting**

Member James Sensor reported that he served as the NCBA's representative at the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Young Lawyers' Summit. Sensor expressed his appreciation for this opportunity to represent the NCBA, meet other young lawyers, and share ideas. Programs at the meeting addressed the role of a young lawyers' division, ideas for civic engagement, and engaging with senior members to "pass the torch". Sensor commented on a particularly interesting program about cyber security.

### **B. Federal Court Arbitrators and Mediators**

Shay reported receiving correspondence from Judge Joseph F. Leeson, Jr. indicating that the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is in need of attorneys to serve as arbitrators and mediators.

Judge Leeson provided information on the procedure to apply for approval for each position. This information was made available to members at the meeting.

### C. New Bylaws

Proposed changes to the Bylaws addressing different categories of membership had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Member Abe Kassis asked for clarification that the reference to persons working for a “legal business entity” in Northampton County includes persons such as assistant district attorneys, assistant public defenders and law clerks, who work for a government entity. Shay confirmed that this phrase in the bylaws does include such government employees. As the Board received additional questions and comments about the proposed amendments since their circulation, Shay suggested deferring action until the November Meeting, to allow the Board an opportunity to consider additional input. Member Nicholas Noel made a motion to defer action until the November Meeting and Member Daniel O’Donnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Lopiano-Reilly asked that any additional input be communicated prior to the November Meeting.

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

### A. Barristers’ Boast

Congratulations were extended to Member Gretchen Geisser-Petersen on her recent marriage.

Congratulations were extended to Member Alan Williams on the birth of his first grandson.

Congratulations were extended to Member Keri Schantz who has been selected to serve on the PBA Leadership Committee.

Members applauded at the news that Member Nicholas Noel’s son received his captain wings as a pilot for American Airlines.

Members applauded at the announcement by Member Alex Ward that the firm Lauer & Fulmer was successful with an appeal to the Supreme Court of PA.

Members applauded Member Greg Reed's announcement that Member Larry Fox has a new play opening, titled "I'm Still Slightly Confused".

B. Open Forum

No new matters were raised during the Open Forum.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Barbara Hollenbach and seconded by Member Joel Scheer. The motion was unanimously approved by the members in attendance at the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

*Maura Z. McGuire*

Maura Zajac McGuire, Secretary