

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
October 4, 2017**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017, at River Grille at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 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 September 6, 2017 were circulated for review. Backenstoe made a motion to approve the minutes and Spitale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with Eyer abstaining.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

President Shay reported on the following matters:

Shay reported that he received a letter from Member Vicki Coyle, Executive Director of North Penn Legal Services, requesting that the NCBA make a donation of \$60,000, as has been done in past years. Coyle's letter details how funds donated by the NCBA were used during this past year. Spitalo made a motion to recommend a \$60,000 donation to North Penn Legal Services to the Membership at the November Quarterly Meeting. Santanasto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Shay reported that he received a letter from the State Theater Center for the Arts expressing appreciation for the NCBA's donation of \$100 in honor of Member Margaret "Peg" Poswistilo. Member Frank Poswistilo also sent a note of thanks to the NCBA for honoring his wife by this donation.

Shay reported that he received an e-mail from the Princeton University Department of Psychology seeking participation by criminal defense attorneys in a survey concerning job satisfaction. The consensus of the Board was to decline the invitation to participate.

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 September 30, 2017 as follows: \$1,381,658.97. 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 Amicus Soiree is set for October 27th. The jazz band typically booked to play at this event is too loud for the venue. NCBA Members have graciously volunteered to lend their talents to provide musical entertainment. More singers would be welcome.

The Book Buddies Program has received enough individual and firm donations to obtain books for all students in participating classrooms.

The next Bar Buddies event will be on October 19th at the Sun Inn in Bethlehem. This will be a joint event with insurance professionals from NAIFA. All are encouraged to attend.

Leeson circulated an analysis of revenue from the Northampton County Reporter, itemized by month from January 2011 through September 2017. The Board reviewed the analysis. It was noted that there may be difficulty approving significant donation requests in the future if the NCBA's income from the Northampton County Reporter continues to decline.

Leeson reported that insurance quotes are being reviewed as alternatives to USI.

V. PROGRAMS

Member Josh Fulmer has put together a program for the November Quarterly Meeting on the Pennsylvania Courts' Public Access Policy, which will become effective in January 2018. President Judge Baratta and other members are contributing to the program. The Board agreed that this program will be a great benefit to Members.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Foundation Update:

Santanasto provided a report for the NCBA Charitable Foundation Committee. The intended Spring event at Nicola Bulgari's vintage car venue at Union Boulevard in Allentown for Spring 2018 will be postponed. That event will need to be considered for a date later in the year, as the venue will not review proposed events and commit to a date until January 2018. The Committee is in discussions with the Pennsylvania Playhouse to plan an event for a local premiere of Lehigh Valley native Daniel Roebuck's upcoming movie. There is a vacancy on the Foundation Board. Santanasto will speak with the candidates and report back to Shay.

B. Members List of Unpaid Dues:

The Board reviewed a list of Members who have not paid their NCBA dues. All have been contacted by a Board Member. Leeson will send letters to those who have not responded, terminating their membership.

C. Bylaws Changes

Shay circulated proposed revisions to Article III of the Bylaws, addressing Membership and Dues, which he revised to address some questions and concerns posed by members. Wilhelm made a motion to approve the revisions, as set forth in the circulated document. Backenstoe seconded the motion. Following a discussion of the language, Lopiano-Reilly made a motion to amend Wilhelm's motion, so that the proposed revisions would read as follows:

A. (2) Individuals admitted to the practice of law in any jurisdiction, federal or state, within the United States who are in good standing in that jurisdiction and who reside or work for any entity or government unit or government agency within the County of Northampton or the portion of the City of Bethlehem located in Lehigh County; or . . .

D. Affiliate Members:

(1) Individuals not otherwise eligible for membership in this Association who have been elected to the Pennsylvania minor judiciary; or graduated from an ABA approved Paralegal Program; or who have three years' experience as a practicing paralegal . . .

Kulik seconded Lopiano-Reilly's motion for the amendment. Shay moved for approval of the language as revised by Lopiano-Reilly's motion. Backenstoe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Legal Journal Estate

Shay reported to the Board about a proposed bill which would make on-line advertising acceptable for estate notices. The Board discussed possible ramifications.

B. 2018 Budget

O'Donnell commented on the proposed budget, which had been circulated to Board Members previously. The Board reviewed and discussed budget items. Backenstoe made a motion to present the proposed budget to the Membership at the November Quarterly Meeting. Spitale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Topic of the Month:

Backenstoe presented the Topic of the Month and asked Board Members to consider the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, in light of recent tragic events. He posed the question: To what extent should the right to bear arms be regulated? The Board engaged in a lively and thought-provoking discussion, with all positions being considered. Molder agreed to present the Topic of the Month in November and Shay volunteered for December.

D. Miracle League Trick-or-Treat:

Spitale reported that she is seeking more volunteers to participate in the annual Miracle League Trick-or-Treat night at the Miracle League, which will be held on October 21st. The theme this year will be “Harry Potter”.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lopiano-Reilly. The motion was seconded by O'Donnell. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Kingfish American Bistro, 3833 Freemansburg Avenue, Bethlehem, PA.

Respectfully submitted:

Maura Z. McGuire

Maura Zajac McGuire, Secretary