

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
QUARTERLY ASSOCIATION MEETING  
THURSDAY, November 9, 2017**

The November Quarterly Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association was held on Thursday, November 9, 2017, at the Best Western Conference Center, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM**

The November Quarterly Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2017, was called to order by President Michael P. Shay at 6:10 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  
Lisa M. Spitale, Vice President  
Robert Eyer, Treasurer  
Maura Zajac McGuire, Secretary  
Alyssa A. Lopiano-Reilly, Past President

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson was also in attendance.

At the start of the meeting, Judge Emil Giordano thanked the NCBA Members for supporting him in his campaign for election to the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Quarterly Association Meeting of September 14, 2017 were distributed and reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Tyree Blair 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:

Eric Alkon (Sponsored by Matthew Alkon and Sara Moyer)  
Deven Amin (Sponsored by Matthew Alkon and Sara Moyer)  
Molly M. Heidorn (Sponsored by Judge Stephen Baratta and Joseph Pulcini)  
Matthew Maragulia (Sponsored by Judge Samuel Murray and Laura Majewski)  
Ashley Stephens (Sponsored by Philip Hof and Sara Moyer)

After introduction of the proposed new members, a motion was made by Member Philip Hof and seconded by Member Christopher Reid 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. Ceremonial Admission Ceremony**

The Annual Ceremonial Admission to the Bar Ceremony will be held in Courtroom 1 on Friday, December 1, 2017 at 1:15 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.

#### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

Shay reported that he received a letter from the Honorable Timothy Rice of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, seeking feedback on the Court's new webpage. Copies of this letter are placed on tables at the meeting for any Members who want to respond individually.

Shay reported that he received a letter from Magistrate Judge Henry S. Perkin of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania regarding a program he is planning titled "Federal Practice Procedures and Pointers from the Bench". Judge Edward Smith and Judge Joseph Leeson will be among the presenters. Additional information about this program will be available soon.

#### **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 October 31, 2017 to be: \$1,360,784.22. Member Ronald Shipman inquired about the decrease in the assets noted between October 31, 2016 and October 31, 2017. Eyer stated that a substantial part of the difference is attributed to the decrease in revenue from the Northampton County Reporter. The Treasurer's Report was accepted for audit.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Bylaws**

Member Paul Harak reminded the Members that proposed changes to the bylaws were circulated at the last Quarterly Association Meeting. Since that meeting, the Board of Governors reviewed a revised proposal for amendments to the bylaws. The revised proposal has been circulated among the membership. The proposal would clarify criteria for full membership in the NCBA and also create new membership categories for Affiliate Members (Paralegals and MDJ's) and Law Student Members. Harak explained that the proposal came about at the suggestion of Member John Thomas, who sought a change to allow his successor Paralegal Program Director at Northampton Community College become a member. Upon review, the Bylaws Committee saw other areas that needed clarification and suggested new categories of membership. The Board of Governors recommends that the proposed bylaws amendments now before the membership be approved. Member Larry Fox made a motion to approve the proposed bylaws revisions as set forth in the document circulated to the Membership. Member John Thomas Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. Foundation Update**

Member Michael Santanasto provided a report for the NCBA Charitable Foundation Committee. The Committee is working with the Pennsylvania Playhouse to plan an event for a local premiere of Lehigh Valley native Daniel Roebuck's upcoming movie "Getting Grace". Donations to the

Foundation may be made by check payable to “NCBA Charitable Fund” or “NCBA Charitable Foundation” and sent to the NCBA Office.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. North Penn Legal Services Donation Request**

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. The Board of Governors considered and approved the request and recommends that the membership approve the requested donation. Member Ronald Shipman made a motion to approve the donation of \$60,000 to North Penn Legal Services and Member Gregory Reed seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **B. 2018 NCBA Officers and New Board Members**

Shay presented the following proposed slate of officers and new board members approved by the Board of Governors for 2018:

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| President:       | Daniel M. O’Donnell |
| President-Elect: | Lisa M. Spitale     |
| Vice-President:  | Robert Eyer         |
| Treasurer:       | Maura Zajac McGuire |
| Secretary:       | Paul J. Harak       |
| Past President:  | Michael P. Shay     |

#### **New Board Members:**

David M. Backenstoe  
Jeremy F. Clark  
Scott M. Wilhelm

Member Joel Scheer made a motion to approve the slate of officers and board members as proposed by the Board of Governors. Member Robert Nitchkey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### C. 2018 NCBA Budget

President-Elect Daniel O'Donnell presented the proposed 2018 NCBA budget, copies of which were circulated to the membership. O'Donnell opened the floor for questions about the proposed budget. No questions were raised. Member Christopher Reid made a motion to approve the budget and Member Isaac Hof seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### X. BARRISTERS' BOAST

Congratulations were extended to Member Jill McComsey, who traveled to the Mayo Clinic to present a check for \$200,000 raised for SCAD research.

Congratulations and thanks were extended to Vice President Lisa Spitale for once again doing an outstanding job with the NCBA's participation in the annual Miracle League Trick-or-Treat event. The NCBA won the Chairman's Award for its Harry Potter themed booth. Spitale thanked Past President Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly and Members Victor Scmillio and Michael Vargo for their participation.


Congratulations were extended to Member Isaac Hof on the birth of his daughter – and to Member Philip Hof on the birth of his granddaughter.

Congratulations were extended to President Michael Shay who has a new granddaughter, Charlotte Grace and who also recently learned that his daughter is expecting twins.

### XI. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to requesting a motion to adjourn the meeting, Shay called all Past Presidents of the NCBA to the front of the room to continue the tradition of "passing the gavel" to the incoming President, Daniel O'Donnell. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Donald Swan and seconded by Member Judge Jack Panella. The motion was unanimously approved by the members in attendance at the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Maura Zajac McGuire, Secretary