

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
February 3, 2016**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2016, at Valenca, 64 Centre Square, Easton, Pennsylvania, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by President Alyssa A. Lopiano-Reilly. 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:

<u> X </u>	Alyssa A. Lopiano-Reilly, President
<u> X </u>	Michael P. Shay, President-Elect
<u> X </u>	Daniel M. O'Donnell, Vice President
<u> X </u>	Lisa Spitale, Treasurer
<u> X </u>	Robert Eyer, Secretary
<u> X </u>	Abraham P. Kassis, Past President

Board Members:

<u> X </u>	David M. Backenstoe
<u> X </u>	Paul J. Harak
<u> X </u>	Rebecca Kulik
<u> X </u>	Maura Zajac McGuire
<u> </u>	Steven B. Molder
<u> X </u>	Michael A. Santanasto
<u> X </u>	Scott Wilhelm

Executive Director:

<u> X </u>	Mary Beth Leeson
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I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting held January 6, 2016, were circulated for review. Backenstoe made a motion to approve the minutes. Santanasto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

President Lopiano-Reilly reported on the following matters:

A card of thanks was received from all staff at the Northampton County Bar Association thanking the Board of Governors for 2016 pay increases and Christmas bonuses.

January 19, 2016, correspondence from Priscilla B. Schueck, Chief Executive Officer of the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley to Mary Beth Leeson thanking the Northampton County Bar Association for the donation of \$2,000.00 to the Volunteer Center for the 2016 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day literacy program at local schools.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Spitale presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by members of the Board. Spitale announced the total balance as follows: \$1,345,032.63. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and submitted for audit without amendment.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Leeson reported on the following matters:

April 12, 2016, is "Be Kind to Lawyers Day" and "Love Your Lawyer Day" is in November. Discussion regarding ideas to recognize either or both of these dates took place. Discussion included the prospect of public service

announcements to publicize activities of the Northampton County Bar Association. No further action was taken.

Discussion was held regarding recognition of contributions to North Penn Legal Services. President Lopiano-Reilly will forward correspondence to North Penn Legal Services regarding recognition for contributions in any future annual report publication of North Penn Legal Services.

Discussion regarding activities of the Federal Courts Committee took place. Kulik reminded all of the ceremonial admissions to the federal courts scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in the Easton Courtroom of The Honorable Edward G. Smith of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. This will provide an opportunity for members to be admitted to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. The Honorable Joseph F. Leeson, Jr. of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and The Honorable Franklin S. Van Antwerpen of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit will attend and participate. Following the ceremonial admissions the Young Lawyers Division will host a reception at a yet to be determined local Easton establishment. Members of the Board of Governors were urged to attend the ceremonial admission and the Young Lawyers Division gathering.

Discussion regarding invitation by the Pennsylvania Bar Association extended to all unit counties for a meeting on April 13, 2016, took place. Discussions centered on the fact that the Pennsylvania Bar Association is acting to preserve existing unit county status for unit counties in the wake of the decision of the Washington County Bar Association to terminate unit county status with the Pennsylvania Bar Association.

The Bar Association was contacted by a teacher at Liberty High School with regard to the fact that the Bethlehem Area School District has plans to change curriculum in the near future to include a career development program. There was a request that the Northampton County Bar Association assist in the creation of a government and law path in the career development program. After discussion it was determined that this request and the entire matter would be forwarded to the Service to the Public Committee.

The Conference of County Bar Leaders is scheduled for State College February 25 through February 27, 2016. All Board of Governors members attending are invited to attend a non-business dinner meeting on Friday, February 26, 2016, at Allen Street Grill.

Further discussion regarding the American Bar Association's Law Connect Pilot Program launched by the American Bar Association in partnership with Rocket Lawyer took place. The discussion centered on the Pennsylvania Bar Association boycott of the leadership conference in Chicago and the fact that the Pennsylvania Bar Association continues to seek information from the American Bar Association regarding this matter.

Leeson reported on the half page advertisement in the Morning Call listing the accomplishments of the Northampton County Bar Association. Leeson further reported on a WFMZ Channel 69 News story regarding Northampton County Bar Association participation in the Holiday Hope Chest program. Leeson further reported on a print story in the Blue Mountain Town Country Gazette regarding Northampton County Bar Association work on the Holiday Hope Chest program.

The passing of former member Sean Hart was recognized and condolences will be forwarded.

V. PROGRAMS

O'Donnell reported that the program for the March quarterly meeting will be Ellen Freedman regarding law practice management including file management and file retention issues. O'Donnell further reported that the May quarterly meeting will again consist of the malpractice avoidance seminar. O'Donnell reported that programs for the balance of the year are being developed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Santanasto reported on formation of a committee to create the bylaws and structure of the Foundation Board. It was determined that this would be an open committee and that from those participating in the open committee a committee will be formed to serve as the Foundation Board. It was determined that at least two members of the Board of Governors should be members of the Foundation Board. There will be an advertisement placed in the Reporter to recruit those interested in participating in the open committee to create bylaws and structure of the Foundation Board.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

President Lopiano-Reilly reported on development of continuing legal education programs for the Bench Bar Conference. Current programs include breakout sessions with judges and members with respect to particular areas of practice including civil, criminal, estates and family. Another program developed is a “fireside chat” involving Judge Smith of the Eastern District conducting an interview with the Solicitor to Philadelphia. President Lopiano-Reilly encouraged further consideration of ideas for additional continuing legal education programs.

President Lopiano-Reilly introduced discussion regarding Northampton County Bar Association assistance for veterans. In particular, there was discussion regarding Northampton County Bar Association members serving veterans in the preparation of wills. It was determined that this matter would be referred to the Pro Bono Committee for further action.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Harak. The motion was seconded by Kassis. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board Meeting on Monday, February 29, 2016, at Marblehead Chowder House at 4101 William Penn Highway in Easton at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Eyer
Secretary

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