

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
February 29, 2016**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Monday, February 29, 2016, at Marblehead Chowder House, 4101 William Penn Highway, Easton, Pennsylvania, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:48 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> </u>	David M. Backenstoe
<u> X </u>	Paul J. Harak
<u> X </u>	Rebecca Kulik
<u> X </u>	Maura Zajac McGuire
<u> X </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 February 3, 2016, were circulated for review. McGuire made a motion to approve the minutes. Kassis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT’S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

President Lopiano-Reilly reported on the following matters:

February 1, 2016, correspondence from Representative Kate Harper, Member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives representing the 61st Legislative District in Montgomery County, as reminder that Pennsylvania voters will have the opportunity to vote by referendum to set the mandatory retirement age for judges in Pennsylvania at 75 and that the referendum will appear as a ballot question on the ballot for the April 26, 2016, primary election.

February 4, 2016, correspondence from Gary M. Martell, Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Bethlehem thanking the Northampton County Bar Association for the donation made in the memory of Thomas J. Maloney.

III. TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s Report was not available for circulation in advance of the meeting of the Board. This was as a result of the fact that the Board met earlier than initially scheduled. As such, action on the Treasurer’s Report was deferred. The Treasurer’s Report will be promptly forwarded to the Board by email, addressed at the Quarterly Meeting on March 10, 2016, and acted on at the April meeting of the Board.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Leeson reported on the following matters:

Invitations for the Reception for the Court have been mailed out to all members. The Reception for the Court will take place on Friday, April 1, 2016, at Northampton Country Club.

The first payment of the annual contribution to North Penn Legal Services was made.

Notice was published in the Reporter regarding the Northampton County Bar Association Foundation Planning Committee regarding the search for seven members to sit on the Planning Committee for the new Northampton County Bar Association Foundation. The first meeting of the Planning Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. at the Northampton County Bar Association office.

The Conference of County Bar Leaders took place in State College February 25 through February 27, 2016, and was a success and beneficial for those who attended.

Discussion was held regarding the logistics of the receiving line at the Reception for the Court in an effort to minimize lines and delays. President Lopiano-Reilly will speak with President Judge Baratta to ascertain the Court's views on the continued use of the receiving line.

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

Leeson reported on her planned attendance at the Unit County Meeting with PBA Personnel on April 13, 2016. Leeson invited the Board to forward to her any ideas or suggestions for her to bring to the meeting. 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.

Discussion regarding the response of North Penn Legal Services to inquiry by President Lopiano-Reilly regarding recognition for contributions in the annual report publication of the North Penn Legal Services took place. President Lopiano-Reilly will address this matter with membership at the March Quarterly Meeting as part of communications.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

President Lopiano-Reilly reported on the Lehigh Valley Business Women of Influence Awards and noted that members Jill McComsey, Dorota Kozak, and Susan Ellis Wild all are among those to receive the award at ceremony planned for May 11, 2016, at Cedar Crest College.

President Lopiano-Reilly introduced discussion regarding an effective means to receive information regarding accomplishments, awards and other good work of members of Northampton County Bar Association so that the members can be recognized at Quarterly Meetings. It was determined that from this point forward the agenda for all Quarterly Meetings will include an agenda item "Barristers Boast" in order to recognize member accomplishments, awards and other good work. Members who will be recognized at any particular Quarterly Meeting will be contacted and encouraged to attend.

President Lopiano-Reilly introduced discussion concerning BarBuddies mentoring program being initiated by the Northampton County Bar Association. On the fourth Thursday of each month, BarBuddies will gather at a location to meet informally to share ideas, discuss issues, and have the opportunity to learn about anything. The first session of BarBuddies will be held on Thursday, March 24 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Blue. All members of the Board were encouraged to attend. President Lopiano-Reilly will contact new members and encourage attendance. President Lopiano-Reilly urged all Board members to contact members to urge attendance.

President Lopiano-Reilly introduced discussion regarding attendance at the Reception for the Court. President Lopiano-Reilly urged members of the Board to contact at least two members of the Northampton County Bar Association and urge attendance at the Reception for the Court.

President Lopiano-Reilly reported on the Conference of County Bar Leaders which took place in State College February 25 through February 27, 2016. In particular, President Lopiano-Reilly drew attention to programs and activities of other county bar associations worthy of consideration including mentoring programs, travel committees, programs to familiarize senior members with social media and other technology, programs devoted to bar members spending time with judges, and use of newsletters. It was determined that a possible program for bar members to spend time with judges be referred to the Bench Bar Relations Committee for any further review and action.

President Lopiano-Reilly introduced discussion regarding the role of past presidents of the Northampton County Bar Association as ambassadors to the bar. Discussion was held concerning the formation of a Past Presidents Committee which would serve to encourage member participation in Bar events and also make CLE presentations. It was determined that President Lopiano-Reilly will approach past presidents regarding this planned action. It was also determined that action will be taken to recognize past presidents of the Northampton County Bar Association at the Reception for the Court by including in the program for the Reception for the Court a list of living past presidents. There was also discussion concerning the creation of a ceremony for passing of a ceremonial gavel to the new President of the Northampton County Bar Association at the Annual Meeting.

President Lopiano-Reilly introduced discussion regarding other activities or programs learned about at the Conference of County Bar Leaders, including inviting local high schools to attend Naturalization Court, a program for "Speed Networking" to encourage networking between new and senior members of the Bar, and programs to encourage regular meetings between Board members and members of the Court.

President Lopiano-Reilly reminded members of the Board of her continued solicitation for photographs of Bar members at past events to be part of the slide show to be presented at the Reception for the Court.

President Lopiano-Reilly reported on the meeting of the Bench-Bar Conference Committee and the planned activities for the 2016 Bench-Bar Conference to be held at Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Bay Golf Resort, Spa and Marina in Cambridge, Maryland October 6-8, 2016. Social and CLE events are planned beginning with a Thursday, October 6 arrival through midday Saturday, October 8. The theme of events will be "Homecoming".

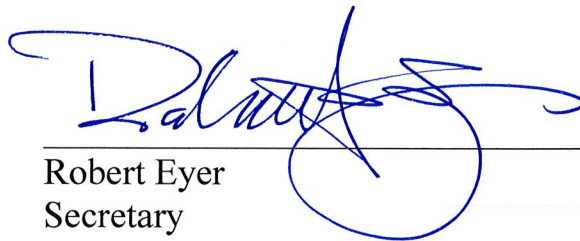
Current programs includes breakout sessions with judges and members with respect to particular areas of practice including civil, criminal, estates and family. Another program developed is a “fireside chat” involving Judge Smith of the Eastern District conducting an interview with the Solicitor to Philadelphia. A judicial panel for discussion is also planned. Planning is also underway for possible participation by a former law clerk to Justice Scalia. Events on Saturday night will feature musical performance by Ex Post Facto, a band featuring members of the Bar. A post Bench-Bar Conference event is planned for the afternoon of Saturday, October 8 to consist of a tailgate party.

Kulik reminded all of the ceremonial admissions to the federal court 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.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Spitale. The motion was seconded by O’Donnell. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at Widow’s Tavern & Grille at 200 Main Street, Easton at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Eyer
Secretary