

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
April 6, 2016**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at The Widows, 200 Main Street, Stockertown, 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>  X  </u>	David M. Backenstoe
<u>      </u>	Paul J. Harak
<u>  X  </u>	Rebecca Kulik
<u>  X  </u>	Maura Zajac McGuire
<u>      </u>	Steven B. Molder
<u>      </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 29, 2016, were circulated for review. Kassis made a motion to approve the minutes. O'Donnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Backenstoe abstaining.

## **II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS**

President Lopiano-Reilly reported on the following matters:

North Penn Legal Services will prepare a press release setting forth the NCBA donations to North Penn Legal Services over the years 2013 through 2016. The press release will be furnished to public media outlets locally. The press release will also be posted on the North Penn Legal Services website. North Penn Legal Services was not inclined to use the press release in other means of communication or marketing. The Board determined that no further action on this issue would be taken at this time.

Member Ronald W. Shipman offered his thanks to the NCBA and the Board for recognition as 50 year honoree.

A request of St. John Neumann Regional School to sponsor a golf tournament was received. No action was taken by the Board.

March 23, 2016, letter from Judge Michael V. Franciosa expressing his thanks for invitation to the Reception for the Court and further expressing his regrets for not being able to attend.

March 23, 2016, correspondence from Pennsylvania Bar Association regarding the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division New Admittee Conference to be held in conjunction with the YLD Summer Meeting at Toftrees Resort in State College on July 27-29, 2016. President Lopiano-Reilly and Executive Director Leeson will identify a new admittee for participation.

March, 2016, correspondence from Executive Director of The CIT Foundation, Inc., requesting contribution toward a Fundraiser Breakfast on April 23, 2016. No action was taken by the Board.

### **III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Spitale presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by members of the Board. Spitalo announced the total balance as of February 29, 2016 as follows: \$1,363,583.95. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and submitted for audit without amendment.

Spitalo presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by members of the Board. Spitalo announced the total balance as of March 31, 2016 as follows: \$1,337,328.00. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and submitted for audit without amendment.

### **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The Reception for the Court was a success. There were 158 attendees, including members of the Bench and Bar.

Leeson has received a number of requests regarding the slide show that was displayed at the Reception for the Court. Shay made a motion to make the slide show available for viewing at the Northampton County Bar Association building only. That motion was seconded by Wilhelm. The motion passed unanimously.

Leeson will attend the Unit County Meeting with PBA personnel on April 13, 2016. 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 next session of BarBuddies will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2016, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bayou in Bethlehem.

On March 9, 2016, the NCBA received renewal of its accreditation to present CLE programs.

The Board recognized the April 1, 2016, passing of member Samuel A. Litzenberger, age 79. A donation will be made to a local Hellertown charity in memory of Attorney Litzenberger.

Discussion was held regarding the prospect of a legislative breakfast for 2016. It was determined that no legislative breakfast will be convened in 2016.

## **V. PROGRAMS**

O'Donnell reported that planning for the November Quarterly Meeting program was underway and it was anticipated that the program would involve presentation by Attorney Dan Siegal regarding case management and file management technology. O'Donnell further reported that a program for the September Quarterly Meeting was being developed.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

President Lopiano-Reilly addressed the issue of disability insurance for employees of NCBA. It was determined that the issue regarding disability insurance for NCBA employees would be referred to the Personnel Committee for further action.

Discussion was held regarding the composition of the Personnel Committee. O'Donnell made a motion to amend the NCBA Bylaws such that an officer of the Board of Governors would be appointed by the President to serve on the Personnel Committee at the beginning of each year. Shay seconded the motion. The motion passed with a single no vote of member Wilhelm.

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. There will be a brief reception in the federal courthouse following the ceremony. There will be an additional reception for all at River Grille following the ceremony.

President Lopiano-Reilly invited discussion regarding Barrister's Boast for the upcoming quarterly association meeting. It was suggested that we include reference to harness racing success of Judge Beltrami.

President Lopiano-Reilly provided an update on the Foundation. The Foundation Planning Committee has met. The NCBA Bylaws are being appropriately amended to reflect the existence of the Foundation. The Foundation Planning Committee will continue its work with the end being the ultimate creation of the Foundation Committee with separate bylaws governing the Foundation Committee.

President Lopiano-Reilly reviewed proposed changes to the NCBA Bylaws to reflect the existence of the Foundation. The first amendment was to reflect that charitable and other requests in that regard will go to the Board or to the Foundation. The second amendment was to reflect that the Chairperson of all committees, including the Foundation Committee, would be appointed by the President on an annual basis. The third amendment reflected the Foundation Committee as a standing committee of the Northampton County Bar Association. A motion was made by Eyer to approve the amendments for submission to the membership for voting. Spitale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

President Lopiano-Reilly reported on Meadowlands Racing involving Judge Beltrami and suggested that the Bar seek to coordinate a trip to one of Judge Beltrami's racing events in the summer months.

President Lopiano-Reilly reported on the PBA YLD New Admittee Conference. It was determined that President Lopiano-Reilly and Executive Director Leeson would identify a new admittee to attend the conference.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Eyer. The motion was seconded by Wilhelm. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Eyer', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large loop at the end.

Robert Eyer  
Secretary

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