

**-MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
March 4, 2015**

The Board of Governors Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at The Café in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 5:48 p.m. by President Abraham P. Kassis. An Agenda for the meeting was circulated to the Members of the Board of Governors prior to the meeting. Members of the Board in attendance at the meeting were as follows:

ATTENDEES (as marked):

Officers:

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

Board Members:

<u> X </u>	David M. Backenstoe
<u> X </u>	Robert Eyer
<u> X </u>	Paul J. Harak
<u> X </u>	Maura Zajac McGuire
<u> X </u>	Michael A. Santanasto
<u> X </u>	Karley Biggs Sebia
<u> X </u>	Scott M. Wilhelm

Executive Director:

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

Minutes of the previous meeting held on February 4, 2015, were circulated for review. The Minutes were accepted.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Kassis reported on the following matters:

- A. Card from Jan Seidel Panto and Judy Seidel thanking the NCBA for donation made in honor of their father, Norman Seidel.
- B. Letter of March 2, 2015, from Amy R. Van Varick, J.D., Assistant Professor, Business Law/Paralegal Studies at Northampton Community College requesting the NCBA's continued sponsorship of a graduation award to an NCC Paralegal student.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lopiano-Reilly presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Members of the Board. She announced the total balance as follows for February 28, 2015: \$1,288,287.38. The report was accepted without amendment.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Leeson reported on the following matters:

- A. The NCBA 2014 end of year financial report was circulated for review by the Members of the Board. This report will be available to the Membership upon request.
- B. Judge Leeson's ceremony will be held May 22, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom #1 of the Northampton County Courthouse.
- C. The 2015 Mock Trial Regional Finals are scheduled for March 17, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. at the Northampton County Courthouse. Judge Baratta will preside over the Mock Trial Regional Finals.
- D. The invitations for the Reception For the Court have been mailed to all Members. The letters inviting young lawyers, Judges and Members of the Board to attend the pre-reception event will be mailed shortly.
- E. Judge Zito's portrait has been hung in Courtroom #2. The Judge did not wish for any unveiling ceremony or similar celebration.
- F. The Amicus Soiree will be held on October 23, 2015, at the Hotel Bethlehem.
- G. The first installment of the donation to North Penn Legal Services will be mailed the week of March 2, 2015.
- H. Mary Beth Leeson and Lopiano-Reilly will be traveling to Chicago the week of March 9, 2015, to attend the ABA's Bar Leadership Institute.

- I. A proposed addition to the 2016 Law Day was discussed, which would include the addition of a lunch for all mock trial participating students, judges and lawyers. This proposal will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

V. PROGRAMS

Shay reported that he has already identified subject matter and scheduled the programs for the NCBA's two (2) fall quarterly meetings in 2015.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. The Easton Area Middle School has requested members of the NCBA participate in their Conflict Resolution Program. Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly made a motion that the NCBA commit \$999 for training which would allow NCBA members to participate in the Easton Area Middle School Conflict Resolution Program. This \$999 shall encompass the fee for outside speakers to present the training along with waiving CLE fees for members, provided said members donate at least three (3) hours of their personal time to the aforementioned program. This fee shall not include the member's fee to obtain the necessary clearances, as each member participating in the aforementioned program shall be responsible for obtaining his or her own clearances. Reid seconded.

After discussions, the motion passed with two (2) nays (Wilhelm and Harak).

- B. It has been 3 years since the long range planning committee drafted a long range plan. It was agreed that a meeting should be scheduled to update the long range plan at a date in 2015 to be determined.
- C. Santanasto met with a representative from the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation to discuss a charitable arm for the NCBA. He will arrange to have a representative of the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation available for an upcoming quarterly meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS


- A. Kassis discussed the need for NCBA staff guidelines for when they receive information regarding alleged actions of a Member which may result in action from the Pennsylvania Disciplinary Board. This matter will be addressed with the appropriate committee.
- B. The Members of the Board discussed the proposed tax on legal fees included in Governor Wolf's proposed State Budget. Email correspondence will be sent to the

Membership inquiring as to their desire sit on a committee which will be formed to explore ways to prevent this proposed tax from being approved.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Wilhelm and was seconded by McGuire. The MOTION was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:



Lisa M. Spitale, Secretary