

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
April 1, 2015**

The Board of Governors Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015, at The Widow's Tavern and Grille in Stockertown, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 5:58 p.m. by President Elect, Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly, as President Kassis was delayed in arriving at the meeting due to a required Court appearance. 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> </u>	Michael P. Shay, Vice President
<u> X </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 March 4, 2015, were circulated for review. The Minutes were accepted.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Kassis reported on the following matters:

- A. An email from Member Andrew J. Shaw, Esquire, requesting individual Members make a contribution to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Member Shaw is a recent survivor of Myelodysplastic Syndrome (MDS) and has entered a fundraising competition called "Man & Woman of the Year". Wilhelm made a Motion to donate Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Andrew Shay. Sepia seconded the Motion. The Motion passed over Spitale's opposition.

The Committee went on to discuss a policy regarding donations to individual members and/or their causes. Lopiano-Reilly made a Motion that a policy be adopted that, in the event a full member in good standing, his or her children, partner or spouse with health related special causes should solicit the Membership, or ask for donations, or if such a health related special cause should come to the attention of the Board of Governors, a one time donation in the amount of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) may be made as a gesture of good thoughts and best wishes out of the charitable donations budget. Spitale seconded this Motion. Wilhelm proposed an amendment to this Motion to clarify that the policy moved by Lopiano-Reilly be an interim policy until and/or if a foundation is created. Lopiano-Reilly adopted this amendment. Wilhelm seconded this adopted Motion. This Motion failed. It was decided that a One Hundred Dollar (\$100.00) donation be made to Shaw and no policy regarding donations to individual members was adopted.

The need for a foundation was again discussed. The Foundation Committee, chaired by Santanasto, will review this area for donations. Lopiano-Reilly, Wilhelm and Harak agreed to sit on the aforementioned committee.

- B. Letter of March 24, 2015, from Judge Emil Giordano expressing his regret in being unable to attend the Reception for the Court.
- C. Email of March 26, 2015, from Stephanie S. Libhart, Executive Director, Pennsylvania IOLTA Board, requesting bar president to encourage Members to contribute to IOLTA fund.
- D. Letter of March 13, 2015, from Stanley J. Margle, Esquire, to Kassis requesting the NCBA conduct a rating pole, or Plebiscite, of Members for a determination as to Judge Giordano's qualifications as a Candidate for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania. Reid made a Motion that such a Plebiscite be conducted for Judge Giordano's qualifications. This Motion was tabled subject to the review of the bi-laws.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

O'Donnell presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Members of the Board. He announced the total balance as follows for March 31, 2015: \$1,251,771.85. He presented the Morgan Stanley statement for March 24, 2014. The report was accepted without amendment.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Leeson reported on the following matters:

- A. The Reception for the Court went well.
- B. The 2015 Mock Trial Regional Finals were held at the Northampton County Courthouse on March 17, 2015. The team from Nazareth High School won this round and placed either 3rd or 4th in the state finals.
- C. The PBA has taken away one of our delegates from Zone 2. Ellen Kraft's term ends after the June meeting. Accordingly, no new member will be elected.
- D. The Northampton County Civil Docket will be available online. The on-line docket is currently in a thirty (30) day test period.
- E. Judge Leeson's reception will be held May 22, 2015, at the Northampton County Club.

V. PROGRAMS

Leeson reported that Shay has already identified subject matter and scheduled the programs for the NCBA's 2015 quarterly meetings.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Long Range Planning: It was agreed that a half-day meeting will be scheduled in September or October to discuss the NCBA long range planning goals. Lopiano-Reilly will compile a list of Members to invite to this event.
- B. State Sales Tax: Wilhelm reported as to the initial meeting of the NCBA ad hoc Sales Tax Committee, which was formed to address the proposed tax on legal fees included in Governor Wolf's proposed State Budget. Wilhelm proposed several ways in which the NCBA could take action, including but not limited to writing opposition letters to Legislators, meeting with Northampton County Legislators, meeting with local organizations (Rotary Club's, senior centers, etc.) and invite local Bar Associations to a joint meeting.

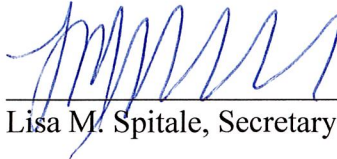
VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. On-line access to Northampton County Civil Docket will begin shortly. This is currently in the test stage with the tech committee and volunteers currently have access. At the conclusion of this test stage (30 days), the on-line docket will be accessible.
- B. Judge Giordano Superior Court Election: addressed above.
- C. Andrew Shaw Donation: addressed above.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by O'Donnell and was seconded by Lopiano-Reilly. The MOTION was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 6, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:



Lisa M. Spitale, Secretary