

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
May 6, 2015**

The Board of Governors Meeting was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2015, at Valenca Restaurant in Easton, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m. by President 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>  X</u>	Daniel M. O'Donnell, Treasurer
<u>  X</u>	Lisa Spitale, Secretary
_____	Christopher M. Reid, Past President

**Board Members:**

<u>  X</u>	David M. Backenstoe
_____	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 April 1, 2015, were circulated for review. The Minutes were accepted.

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

Kassis reported on the following matters:

- A. An April 6, 2015, email from Maria T. Engles, Young Lawyers Division Coordinator of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, regarding the 2015 New Admittee Conference to be held at the Seven Springs Resort in Somerset, Pennsylvania on August 5-7, 2015. Tyree Blair was selected by the Board to attend this conference as the NCBA representative. President Kassis to inquire as to his availability for this conference.
  
- B. April 21, 2015, email from Matt Potts informing NCBA members that the Northwood Racquet Club, in conjunction with the United States Tennis Association, is hosting a fun on the Court Day for members of the Lehigh and Northampton County Bar Associations on June 6, 2015. Should Attorney Potts wish to inform the NCBA members of this event, he can purchase space in the Reporter or purchase a list of mailing labels.
  
- C. A letter from Henry Perstein, CEO of CrowdLaw regarding this business, which appears to be a website designed to allow individuals to fund legal services. No action will be taken on this correspondence.

### **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 April 30, 2015: \$1,266,281.05. The report was accepted without amendment.

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

Leeson reported on the following matters:

- A. Notes received from students who attended Law Day were circulated.
  
- B. The Past President's Dinner will be held on April 14, 2015, at the Hotel Bethlehem.
  
- C. Judge Leeson's reception will be held May 22, 2015, at the Northampton Country Club.
  
- D. The 2016 Bench Bar Conference will be held October 6-8, 2016 at The Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, Maryland.
  
- E. The NCBA Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2015, at the Best Western.
  
- F. Leeson reported that several Members regularly use her cellular telephone as a means to communicate with her regarding NCBA matters. A Motion was made by Santanasto to allocate up to \$750 per year for a cellular phone and cellular phone plan. The Motion was seconded by Wilhelm. The Motion passed.

## **V. PROGRAMS**

Shay reported that he has already planned and scheduled the programs for the remaining NCBA's 2015 meetings.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. State Sales Tax Update. Lopiano-Reilly reported that she attended a meeting with Senator Boscola on April 23, 2015, to discuss this issue. A memo was provided to the Board detailing this meeting.

A joint meeting was held on April 21, 2015, to discuss the proposed State Sales Tax on legal services. Representatives from Montgomery, Bucks, Monroe, Lehigh and Northampton Counties were present for this meeting. Suggestions from this meeting included a "one on one" meeting with legislators and a cocktail hour for legislators and County Bar Association Members from the aforementioned counties.

A CLE addressing how the proposed State Sales Tax on Services will affect the legal practice is scheduled for June 19, 2015, at the NCBA.

- B. O'Donnell reported that the finance committee met on April 29, 2015, to discuss the current policy. This policy was deemed by the committee to be acceptable.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Bylaws update. Lopiano-Reilly reported that as to the proposed amendment to the Bylaws which would permit a plebiscite for any Judges running for a seat at the Appellate and/or Commonwealth level. The Board voted on this Motion via email on April 6, 2015. The Motion passed. The Motion will go to the Membership.

Kassis, Shay and Santanasto abstained from the vote.

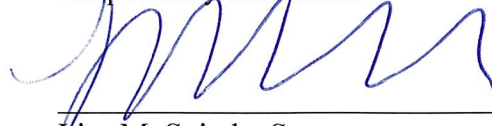
- B. Building Security Camera. Leeson reported that it was suggested to her that placing a security camera on the building facing the corner of Lehigh Street and 9<sup>th</sup> Street may be helpful in monitoring crime in the neighborhood. Leeson has not explored the cost of the camera. The matter was tabled to allow Leeson time to obtain an estimated cost for the camera as well as any potential insurance discounts related to same.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Santanasto and was seconded by McGuire. The MOTION was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:



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Lisa M. Spitale, Secretary