

**MINUTES OF THE  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
QUARTERLY MEETING  
Thursday, May 14, 2015**

The Quarterly Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association was held on May 14, 2015, at the Best Western Conference Center, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM**

The Quarterly Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2015, was called to Order by the NCBA President, Abraham Kassis at 12:37 p.m. A quorum was present at the time the meeting was called to Order. The following officers of the NCBA were present at the time the meeting was called to Order:

Abraham P. Kassis, President  
Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly, Present Elect  
Michael P. Shay, Vice-President  
Lisa M. Spitale, Secretary  
Christopher Reid, Past-President

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson was also in attendance.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 19, 2015, Quarterly Association Meeting were distributed and reviewed. A Motion to approve the minutes was made by Member Gregory Reed, Esquire, and was seconded by Christopher Reid, Esquire. That Motion was approved unanimously by the Members in attendance at the meeting.

**III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

The following proposed new members appeared at the meeting for admission into membership of the NCBA: Morris S. Bauer, Esquire, Shawn M. Dethlefsen, Esquire, Jonathan B. Koutcher, Esquire, and Eric Pearson, Esquire.

After introduction and indemnification of sponsors, a Motion was made by Member Phil Hof, Esquire and seconded by Member James Obrecht, Esquire, to admit the attorneys listed above into membership of the NCBA. That Motion was unanimously approved by the Members in attendance at the meeting and all proposed new members listed above were accepted into membership of the NCBA.

#### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Iron Pigs Game – Thursday, July 2, 2015
- B. Summer Outing – Thursday, July 16, 2015

#### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter from the Pennsylvania Bar Executives regarding the Attorney Registrations Forms reminding attorneys to consider making an Iolta donation, as those donations have decreased in the past few years.

#### **VI. TREASURER'S REPORT**

President Elect Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Members in attendance. She announced the balance of each NCBA account, and announced the total balance of all accounts to April 30, 2015, was the sum of \$1,265,640.42. A Treasurer's report was filed for audit.

#### **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Members Richard E. Santee and Roseanne Joseph reported on the Easton Area Middle School Conflict Resolution Program. They asked Members to consider volunteering their time to assist in this program designed to offer Conflict Resolution skills to the students at the Easton Area Middle School.

#### **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Professional Services Tax Proposal: Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly reported that on April 23, 2015, she and Scott Wilhelm met with Senator Boscola to express their concerns with the proposed Professional Services Tax. Senator Boscola's Chief of Staff, Joe Kelly, was in attendance at the quarterly meeting to provide an update regarding this matter from Senator Boscola's perspective.

On June 19, 2015, the Bar Association will be presenting a CLE addressing the Professional Services Tax Proposal.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Bylaws Revision. Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly reported the following regarding a proposed amendment to the By-Laws:

By the following electronic vote completed on April 6, 2015 of the Board of Governors, the Board Recommends to the Association at Large, an Amendment to Article VIII (D) of the By-Laws, to include candidates for the Commonwealth, Superior and Supreme Courts and not just the Court of Common Pleas.

Article VIII(D) of the By-Laws of the Northampton County Bar Association of Pennsylvania Adopted September 21, 1892 and last revised November, 2014 currently reads:

“D. This Association may take action to evaluate a candidate for election to the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County. Such action shall be limited to finding a candidate to be “Well Qualified,” “Qualified” or “Not Qualified.” The Association may not endorse a candidate.”

With the passage of a motion on April 6, 2015, the recommendation of the Board of Governors to the Association at Large is that Article VIII(D) be revised to read:

“D. This Association may take action to evaluate a candidate for election to the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County or to the Commonwealth, Superior or Supreme Courts of Pennsylvania. Such action shall be limited to finding a candidate to be “Well Qualified,” “Qualified” or “Not Qualified.” The Association may not endorse a candidate.”

A Motion to approve the proposed change to the by-laws was made by Paul Harak, Esquire and seconded by Member Michael Vargo, Esquire. A vote was taken. The vote was counted at 49 Yays and 44 Nos. The Motion failed.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Ellen Kraft, Esquire, and was seconded by Member Alexander Karam, Esquire. That Motion was unanimously approved by the members in attendance at the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

  
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LISA M. SPITALE, SECRETARY