

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
October 7, 2015**

The Board of Governors Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015, at Mitzi's Table in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 5:41 p.m. by President Elect 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 in attendance at the meeting were as follows:

**ATTENDEES (as marked):**

**Officers:**

_____	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
<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 September 2, 2015, were circulated for review. The Minutes were accepted.

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

Lopiano-Reilly reported on the following matters:

- A. September 29, 2015, correspondence from Judge Franklin S. Van Antwerpen thanking the NCBA for the invitation to the Amicus Soiree and regretfully declining the invitation.
- B. September 18, 2015, correspondence from Barry M. Simpson thanking the NCBA for the \$5,000 donation to the PBA Legislative Relations Department.
- C. September 18, 2015, correspondence from William H. Pugh, V thanking the NCBA for the \$5,000.00 donation to the CPAC made to support the legislative efforts of the PBA.
- D. September 14, 2015, email correspondence from David Rose requesting \$1,000.00 sponsorship for the 2016 Town Crier Gathering held Heritage Day weekend in Easton, Pennsylvania. Leeson will inquire as to what type of advertisement and other benefits the NCBA will get from said sponsorship.

### **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 September 30, 2015: \$1,237,677.34. The report was accepted without amendment.

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

Leeson reported on the following matters:

- A. The Personnel Committee met recently and will be updating the personnel manual.
- B. As of January 2016, the PBA will switch from DVDs to On Demand for all CLE courses. Leeson will check our current electronic equipment to ensure it is compatible with this switch.
- C. The Bench Bar Relations Committee met on October 7, 2015 and has scheduled Donut Day for November 6, 2015.
- D. The Amicus Soiree is scheduled for October 23, 2015. As of the date of this meeting, 82 guests are registered.
- E. The Miracle League Trick or Treat is scheduled for October 24, 2015.

- F. Luis Campos emailed Leeson to advise that the county online docket for Orphans Court has been delayed. The civil docket is currently available online. Improvements are expected in the upcoming week.
- G. The Holiday Hope Chest letters will be mailed this week. Currently, \$575 has been raised for the 2015 Holiday Hope Chest.
- H. The Federal Court Program in Lehigh County went well.
- I. An email was sent regarding Representative Day's proposed legislation concerning legal publications. Our CCLJ representatives met with him. He stated that he does not wish to interfere with legal journals or publications.

## **V. PROGRAMS**

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

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Long Range Planning: The Long Range Planning session occurred on September 25, 2015 at the Bethlehem Township Community Center.
- B. Security Cameras. Leeson reported that individuals have been engaging in what is believed to be the sale of drugs on the front steps of the bar association on two (2) occasions. She and the staff are concerned for their safety given this activity. Backenstoe made a Motion to install cameras for the safety of the staff, if the funds are available in the current budget. Santanasto seconded the Motion. The Motion passed.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. North Penn Legal Services Request. Victoria Coyle, Esquire, provided the NCBA with letter correspondence detailing the manner in which the prior donation in the amount of \$60,000.00 was used and again requesting a donation. This matter will go to the NCBA at the November Quarterly Meeting. Shay made a Motion recommending a donation in the amount of \$60,000.00 to North Penn Legal Services for 2016. Backenstoe seconded. Extensive discussion on the issue ensued. The Motion passed.
- B. Judge Panella has expressed interest in creating a historical video detailing the history of the Northampton County Court. He has not yet provided us with any financial estimates or specific donation request.

C. The CCLJ update was deferred to the next meeting when President Kassis will be available.

D. The Northampton County Sheriff will be installing a new security system for entry to the Courthouse. Passes will be made available for NCBA members.

E. The 2016 budget was circulated for review.

F. The 2016 Bench Bar will take place in Cambridge, Maryland.

G. The Governors were asked to contact large firms to inquire as to what we can do to get more involvement from them in NCBA functions.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Wilhelm and was seconded by Eyer. The MOTION was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board Meeting on November 4, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:



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Lisa M. Spitale, Secretary