

**MINUTES OF THE  
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
Thursday, January 16, 2014**

The Annual Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association was held on January 16, 2014, at the Best Western Conference Center, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND QUORUM**

The Annual Association Meeting of the Northampton County Bar Association scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2014, was called to Order by NCBA President Christopher M. Reid at 6:05 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:

Christopher M. Reid, President  
Abraham P. Kassis, President Elect  
Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly, Vice President  
Daniel M. O'Donnell, Secretary  
Stanley J. Margle, III, Past President

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson was also in attendance.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 14, 2013, Quarterly Association Meeting were distributed and reviewed. A MOTION to approve the minutes was made by Member Michael C. Deschler, Esq., and was seconded by Member Lisa M. Spitale, Esq. That MOTION was approved unanimously by the Members in attendance at the meeting.

**II. A. RECOGNITIONS**

After the approval of the minutes, President Reid recognized several people in attendance with upcoming birthdays: Judge James C. Hogan, Roseann B. Joseph, Esq. and Mary Beth Leeson.

**III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

The following proposed new members appeared at the meeting for admission into membership of the NCBA: Wesley A. Addington, Esq., Kelly Halupa, Esq., Matthew Mottola, Esq., Avery E. Smith, Esq., Mallory Jane Sweeney, Esq.

After introduction, and identification of sponsors, a MOTION was made by member John L. Obrecht, Esq. and seconded by member Victor E. Scmillio, Esq. 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. NCBA/BALC Joint Dinner – March 6, 2014 at Coca Cola Park.

Chief Justice of the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Petrese B. Tucker will be in attendance to speak.

B. Reception for the Court – Friday, March 28, 2014.

C. The 2014 calendar of NCBA events was circulated to all Members in attendance.

#### **V. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no new correspondence.

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

President-Elect Kassis presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Members in attendance at the meeting. He announced the balance of each NCBA account, and announced the total balance of all accounts to December 31, 2013, is the sum of \$1,083,866.40. A MOTION was made by member Donald M. Swan, Jr., Esq. and was seconded by member Michael A. Santanasto, Esq.. The MOTION was approved unanimously by the Members in attendance at the meeting.

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

There were no Committee Reports. However, President Reid reminded Members to submit their Committee Preference Forms to the NCBA as soon as possible.

#### **VII. A. RECOGNITION OF ELLEN M. KRAFT, ESQUIRE.**

Vice President Lopiano-Reilly and Past President Margle recognized member Ellen M. Kraft for more than 25-years of service to the County as a Divorce Master and thanked her for her outstanding service. The NCBA presented her with a Visa gift card in the amount of \$250 in appreciation of her service. Jeremy F. Clark will assume Attorney Kraft's position as County Divorce Master.

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

Member Paul J. Harak reported on behalf of the Long Range Committee regarding the Committee's efforts to find alternative office space for the NCBA.

Attorney Harak reported that he met with Attorney John R. Vivian, Jr. and took a tour of Attorney Vivian's building at 831 Lehigh Street, Easton, across the street from the current NCBA office. Attorney Vivian's building has twenty-one (21) parking spaces and four (4) floors including a basement. It is a substantial size, and much larger than the current NCBA office. Likewise, Attorney Harak reported that Nu Cor Management, Inc. provided an estimate for fitting out and renovating the building estimated to be approximately \$650,000, which could perhaps be reduced by \$100,000 - \$150,000 depending on preferences. Harak reported that, without substantial negotiation, the most recent asking price for Vivian's building is \$325,000. At those costs, Harak recommended that the Committee cease its efforts to obtain Vivian's building.

Harak also reported that realtor Clay Mitman provided a market analysis for the current NCBA office building examining comparable properties, and generously estimated a market value of \$350,000.

Member Ronald W. Shipman, Esq. requested that the Members be reminded of the anticipated costs to renovate the current NCBA office. Harak reported that the most recent estimate to rehabilitate the existing building so it could accommodate seventy (70) classroom seats was in excess of \$1,000,000.

Member Philip M. Hof, Esq. questioned whether the Long Range Committee examined the option of purchasing office space more central in the County, rather than in Easton. Harak reported that the Long Range Committee has not focused outside of the Easton area in light of a pollquestionnaire that had been submitted to members some time ago, which demonstrated a preference for finding office space in Easton.

Member Joel M. Scheer indicated that in light of these costs for alternative space, the NCBA may have no option but to remain at its current location, and examine other options such as renting additional space as needed.

Member Joel M. Scheer, Esq. made a MOTION to have the Long Range Committee conclude its efforts to locate alternative office space for purchase by the NCBA, and the MOTION was seconded by Member Frank S. Poswistilo, Esq. The MOTION was approved unanimously by the Members in attendance at the meeting. However, a clarification was offered by Member Ronald W. Shipman, Esq. that the MOTION was not to disband the Committee, but simply to have the Committee cease its efforts to find office space for purchase.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

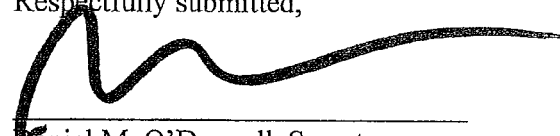
Member Jonathan M. Huerta, Esq. reported on the upcoming 2014 High School Mock Trial Program. Huerta encouraged the members to participate in the program by volunteering their time as judges or jurors.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Member John L. Obrecht, Esq., and was seconded by Member Daniel E. Cohen, Esq. That MOTION was unanimously approved by the members in attendance at the meeting, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Following adjournment and dinner, the program entitled "How Digital Devices and Social Media are Impacting Your Practice" was presented.

Respectfully submitted,



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Daniel M. O'Donnell, Secretary