

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
March 5, 2014**

The Board of Governors Meeting for March, was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2014, at The Café in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by President Christopher M. Reid. An Agenda for the meeting was circulated to the Members of the Board of Governors prior to the meeting. Members of the Board of Governors in attendance at the meeting were as follows:

ATTENDEES (as marked):

Officers:

<u> X </u>	Christopher M. Reid, President
<u> X </u>	Abraham P. Kassis, President Elect
<u> X </u>	Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly, Vice President
<u> </u>	Michael P. Shay, Treasurer
<u> X </u>	Daniel M. O'Donnell, Secretary
<u> X </u>	Stanley J. Margle, III, Past President

Board Members:

<u> X </u>	Robert Eyer
<u> </u>	Maura Zajac McGuire
<u> X </u>	Michael A. Santanasto
<u> X </u>	Karley Biggs Sebia
<u> X </u>	Lisa Spitale
<u> </u>	Thomas L. Walters
<u> X </u>	Joseph P. Yanuzzi

Executive Director:

<u> X </u>	Mary Beth Leeson
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I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The prior month's meeting for February, was cancelled due to inclement weather. Minutes of the previous meeting held on January 8, 2014, were circulated for review. A MOTION to approve the minutes was made by Yanuzzi, and was seconded by Lopiano-Reilly. The MOTION was approved unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Reid reported on the following matters:

A. Communications

- i. Letter from Superior Court Judge Jack A. Panella thanking the NCBA for the invitation but indicating he cannot attend the joint dinner with the NCBA and BALC. No action needed.
- ii. Thank you note from Zachary Hogan for the NCBA's organization of the Mock-Trial competition for high school students. No action needed.
- iii. Thank you note from Paul Florenz thanking the NCBA for its gift to the Bach Choir in memory of Jacob Kolb. No action needed.
- iv. Thank you note from Ellen Kraft thanking the NCBA Board of Governors for the NCBA's gift conveyed to her at the last Annual Meeting in thanks for her service to the County. No action needed.
- v. Letter from Christopher Reid to NCBA members notifying them of upcoming events and encouraging member participation. No action needed.
- vi. Letter from Judge Franklin S. Van Antwerpen to Reid thanking us for the invitation to the joint dinner of the NCBA and BALC but indicating that he is unable to attend. No action needed.
- vii. Letter from Judge Franklin S. Van Antwerpen to the NCBA Board of Governors thanking them for the invitation to the Annual Reception for the Court and accepting the invitation. No action needed.
- viii. Letter from President Judge Stephen G. Baratta to Reid thanking him for the invitation to the joint dinner reception for the NCBA and BALC and accepting the invitation. No action needed.
- ix. Letter from Dennis A. DeEsch to the NCBA regretfully advising that he will be relocating and not renewing his NCBA membership. No action needed.
- x. Letter from the Volunteer Center of Lehigh Valley to the NCBA thanking the NCBA for its donation of \$2,000 to the Volunteer Center for the 2014 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Literacy Program. No action needed.

xi. Letter from Terry D. Weiler of Huckabee, Weiler & Levengood to the NCBA zone two presidents, including Reid, congratulating them and offering to attend any events as the zone governor. No action needed.

xii. Letter from John G. Thomas, III, Professor of Business Law/Paralegal Studies at Northampton Community College to Reid thanking the Board of Governors and NCBA for its continuing sponsorship of the graduation award and soliciting the NCBA's recognition of the college's outstanding graduate for this academic year, and further inviting Reid to attend the NCC Awards Convocation on Thursday, April 24, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. A MOTION was not required, but the Board approved continuing to sponsor the recognition of the college's outstanding graduate for this academic year. Reid will attend the event.

xiii. Series of emails between Reid and Victoria A. Coyle of North Penn Legal Services addressing concerns raised by the Board of Governors at the last monthly meeting. Reid offered the correspondence to the Board members and invited them to contact him with any additional questions or concerns for Coyle.

xiv. Letter from Project Child to Leeson soliciting sponsorship for an upcoming conference in April, 2014. No action taken.

xv. Letter from ProJeCt to NCBA soliciting sponsorship for upcoming event to celebrate Danny Cohen's 45 year commitment to the community and to ProJeCt with a ceremony to be held Thursday, April 24, 2014, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Hampton Inn at Easton, and soliciting sponsorship. No action taken.

xvi. Email from Mark Breiner of the Pennsylvania Play House to Leeson soliciting sponsorship in the amount of \$5,000 toward the upcoming production of To Kill a Mocking Bird in June of 2014. No action taken.

xvii. Letter from Jeff Cantrel of the Bethlehem Area Vocation – Technical School to the NCBA soliciting sponsorship of their participation in their upcoming District 11 Skills USA competition. No action taken.

xviii. Letter from Senior Judge Robert A. Freedberg to Reid thanking him for the invitation to the Annual Reception for the Court and indicating that he will be unable to attend. No action needed.

B. Reid provided an update on his recent trip to the CCBL convention in State College, Pennsylvania.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lopiano-Reilly presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Members of the Board for both January and February of 2014. She announced the total balances as follows: for January 31, 2014, \$1,167,861.59; and for February 28, 2014, \$1,204,055.75. A MOTION was made by O'Donnell to approve the Treasurer's Report, and was seconded by Eyer.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Leeson reported on the following matters:

- A. Member Andrew Shaw update – going in for bone marrow transplant within one to two weeks.
- B. The joint-dinner of the NCBA and BALC will be held tomorrow at the Iron Pigs Coca-Cola Park. The NCBA has 40 members scheduled to attend (including nine judges) and the BALC has 50 members scheduled to attend (including two judges).
- C. The first payment for the 2014 grant to North Penn Legal Services was issued this week by the NCBA.
- D. The high school mock trial program was held at the Northampton County Courthouse. Karley Biggs Sebia and Jonathan Huerta were instrumental in the program. Nazareth High School and Governor Mifflin High School will be moving onto the next round.
- E. The Reception for the Court will be held on March 28, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. at the Northampton Country Club. Currently there are 37 members scheduled to attend (including seven judges). Richard J. Haber and Thomas J. Maloney will be the 50 year honorees.

Haber has communicated a request to the NCBA that his wife be allowed to attend. There has been a long standing decision that spouses not attend the event. That has been strictly enforced for attorneys and judges as well. A MOTION was not required, but the prevailing sentiment of the Board members was that an exception should not be made in this instance. That message will be communicated by Margle.

- F. Various NCBA committees are in the process of scheduling meetings in the upcoming months.
- G. The NCBA will take a bus trip to New York to see the Broadway show "After Midnight" on Saturday, April 26, 2014.

- H. The NCBA is beginning to plan for this year's Law Day. Judge Jennifer R. Sletvold will be participating in the event for the Bench. A committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 7, 2014.
- I. Leeson and Kassis will attend the American Bar Association's BLI in Chicago on March 13 & 14, 2014.
- J. The next NCBA Quarterly meeting will be held Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Best Western in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.
- K. The Bench Bar Relations Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Reid reported that he had a discussion with President Judge Baratta and reiterated his interest in having members of the Bench participate in CLE programs.
- L. Leeson attended a meeting at the Northampton Community College to address members of the Paralegal program.

V. PROGRAMS

Lopiano-Reilly reported on the following matters:

- A. At the March 20, 2014, NCBA Quarterly Meeting, CLE credit will be offered regarding IOLTA rules and procedures.
- B. At the September 18, 2014, NCBA Quarterly Meeting, CLE credit will be offered regarding the Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers program.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Building Update. Reid spoke with Justin McCarthy about the Bechtel building. McCarthy was open to the idea of renting the building to the NCBA. Reid suggested that Nu Cor be retained to inspect the building and provide a general report on its usefulness and viability for NCBA purposes. A MOTION was made by Santanasto and was seconded by Spitale to retain Nu Cor at a cost of \$1,500 to prepare such a report. The MOTION was approved unanimously.
- B. Long Range Planning Committee. New chairs were identified.
- C. North Penn Legal Services. Addressed above.
- D. Bench Bar conference sponsorship. Reid spoke with President Judge Baratta who indicated no reason why the NCBA should not pursue sponsorship from law firms for the NCBA Bench Bar Conference. It was agreed that the sponsorships would not be

specifically to the benefit of the judges in any fashion, but would rather be used to off-set costs for members perhaps with a focus on young lawyers. The exact details of the use of the sponsorship funds was not determined. A MOTION was made by Biggs Sebia and was seconded by Santanasto to approve the NCBA moving forward with seeking sponsorships by law firms for the upcoming NCBA Bench Bar Conference.

- E. Liquor liability insurance. Leeson reported that she has had discussions with the NCBA's insurance agent. The agent suggested two options, with the most viable and cost efficient being that the NCBA obtain a liquor liability insurance rider which would cover four (4) events at which liquor is offered to members in attendance, and obtain a separate rider for the upcoming Bench Bar Conference in New Jersey, and finally that if there are happy hours for which insurance is required that they be added to the rider separately. Reid proposed a liquor liability insurance policy for the NCBA as follows: the NCBA shall obtain liquor liability insurance coverage for any NCBA sponsored event at which either (a) a fee is charged and liquor is served; or (b) the cost of alcohol is in any way subsidized by the NCBA. A MOTION was made by Lopiano-Reilly to approve said policy and was seconded by Eyer. The MOTION was approved unanimously.

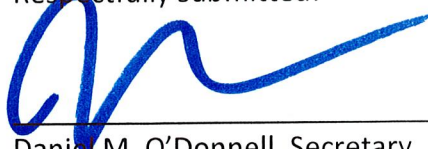
VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Margle reported on an article that recently appeared on the front page of the Morning Call regarding campaign fundraising and donations for candidates to be Court of Common Pleas judges. In particular, one member of the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas Bench suggested that the NCBA should respond to the article as it attempted to portray a negative picture of some or all members of the Bench. However, President Judge Baratta felt that a response would simply serve to give the issue more publicity. A MOTION was not required, but the prevailing sentiment of the Board members was not to provide a response to the article. Reid will communicate a decision to the concerned member of the Bench, and Margle will report the decision to President Judge Baratta.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Yannuzzi, and was seconded by O'Donnell. 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, April 2, 2014, at Stone Bar Inn, in Easton, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel M. O'Donnell, Secretary