

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
April 2, 2014**

The Board of Governors Meeting for April, was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at The Stone Bar Inn, in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 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> X </u>	Michael P. Shay, Treasurer
<u> X </u>	Daniel M. O'Donnell, Secretary
<u> </u>	Stanley J. Margle, III, Past President

Board Members:

<u> </u>	Robert Eyer
<u> X </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
--------------	------------------

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting held on March 5, 2014, were circulated for review. A MOTION to approve the minutes was made by Spitale, and was seconded by Yanuzzi. The MOTION was approved unanimously, with Shay abstaining.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Reid reported on the following matters:

A. Communications

- i. Letter from Judge Edward Smith to Governor Thomas Corbett dated March 27, 2014, offering resignation from the Bench of the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas to assume his position on the Federal Bench. No action needed.
- ii. Thank you note from Margaret Smith and family with regard to the NCBA's recognition of the passing of Charles Smith. No action needed.

- B. Reid reported that the NCBA Reception for the Court occurred on Friday, March 28, 2014, and it was an excellent event.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Shay presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Members of the Board for March of 2014. He announced the total balance as follows: for March 21, 2014, \$1,135,629.46. A MOTION was made by Lopiano-Reilly to approve the Treasurer's Report, and was seconded by Santanasto. The MOTION was approved unanimously.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Leeson reported on the following matters:

- A. Leeson reported that approximately 160 people attended the Reception for the Court last Friday, which was a little more than the average over the last few years.
- B. Leeson reminded the Members of the Board that there are seven (7) 50-year Honorees next year and that the Board should begin considering appropriate ways to assure that everyone receives fair time and that the program concludes at a reasonable hour. There was discussion about videotaping and editing portions of presentations. Shay expressed that whatever option the Board elects should not cut short the actual Honorees' time in light of the respect that they are due for their years of membership in the NCBA. Various options were discussed, and will be considered and decided upon in the future.
- C. Leeson announced that she has twenty-five (25) tickets for the production of "To Kill a Mockingbird" to take place on Friday, June 13, 2014, at the Pennsylvania Playhouse in Bethlehem. Prices will be announced. If those tickets sell out, Leeson believes she can obtain additional tickets.
- D. The NCBA YLD has scheduled a happy-hour for Monday, May 5, 2014, at Mesa in Easton, Pennsylvania. The Board agreed, in light of recent discussions and concerns about

insurance and liability when alcohol is served at NCBA events, if there is any sponsorship of the event by the NCBA, it would only be for food and not for alcohol.

- E. Leeson indicated that Judge Smith has been officially sworn-in to his position on the Federal Bench (the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania). As has been past practice, the Board will need to consider sponsoring a portrait, and the suggestion was that we discuss that topic later at the same time that we discuss the portrait of Judge Leonard N. Zito.

Leeson reminded the Board that when Judge Franklin S. Van Antwerpen ascended to the Federal Bench, the NCBA sponsored an event at the Saucon Valley Country Club which costs approximately \$5,000. The expectation is that any such event today would be more expensive. No such expense is currently accounted for in the 2014 NCBA Budget, and unless an alternative solution is found, such an expense would need to be approved by a vote of the NCBA Members.

The consensus of the Board was that the NCBA should sponsor a reception for Judge Smith, and that it should occur in the near future, likely prior to the next NCBA Quarterly Meeting in May 2014. Options were discussed for an emergency vote of the NCBA Members. Leeson will further examine the 2014 budget to determine if there are funds immediately available or if a vote of the NCBA Members will be necessary. Reid will further discuss the matter with Judge Smith.

- F. Leeson announced that North Penn Legal Services submitted an advertisement to the NCBA Law Journal (Reporter) for an upcoming CLE. Although North Penn Legal Services did not ask, Leeson inquired whether the NCBA should waive the advertising fee since it is for a beneficial and non-profit organization providing legal assistance. No formal vote was needed, but the consensus of the Members of the Board was to waive the advertising fee.

V. PROGRAMS

Lopiano-Reilly reported on the following matters:

- A. At the May 8, 2014, NCBA Quarterly Meeting, CLE credit will be offered regarding Malpractice Avoidance.
- B. At the September 18, 2014, NCBA Quarterly Meeting, CLE credit will be offered regarding the Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers program.
- C. She is still working on a program for the final NCBA Quarterly meeting of the year.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Building Update.** A letter from Nu Cor Management, Inc., dated April 2, 2014, to Member Paul J. Harak was circulated regarding the March 11, 2014, inspection of the MJ Bechtel Building in Bethlehem, PA. The letter contained the observations of Nu Cor Management and a proposed floor plan that may suit the NCBA's need for new office space.

Reid reported that a representative of Nu Cor Management visited the building on March 11, 2014, and inspected it for its potential conversion to new NCBA office space. The conclusion of Nu Cor Management was that a proper fit-out for the NCBA's use would cost somewhere between \$175,000 - \$200,000 according to the proposed floor plan.

Reid reported that it is still not clear what the potential rent or terms of a lease would be for the space, but in light of the anticipated fit-out costs, Reid requested permission to take the next step and discuss potential long term lease conditions with the owner of the building. After brief discussion, the Board approved Reid taking that next step and reporting back to the Board.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

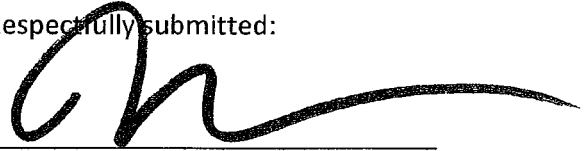
- A. **PBA New Admittee Conference.** Leeson reminded the Members of the Board that every year the PBA sponsors and pays for one Member of the NCBA to attend the New Admittee Conference. In recent years, it has been held at resorts in western Maryland and near State College, Pennsylvania (Toftrees). The Board discussed which NCBA Member should be nominated to attend. The Board nominated Jonathan Huerta in recognition of his service and efforts for the NCBA YLD, for the Mock Trial program, and for other events. Leeson will notify him about the event and inquire about his interest. If he is unable or unwilling to attend, other potential candidates discussed were Members Matthew J. Deschler and Jacqueline K. Holmes.
- B. O'Donnell reported on the recent Bench Bar Relations Committee meeting. Topics discussed were a CLE for an ethics credit relating to the practice of law when the opposing party is unrepresented, and suggestions from Committee Members regarding creation of an Inn of Court or unofficial similar program that would facilitate teamwork and interaction between NCBA Members and the Judges of Northampton County. After brief discussion, the consensus was for O'Donnell to approach the topics with President Judge Stephen G. Baratta to obtain some direction or comment from the Bench, and then report back to the Board.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Kassis, and was seconded by Zajac McGuire. The MOTION was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:15

p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at Vintage at Morgan Hill, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DM', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel M. O'Donnell, Secretary