

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
June 4, 2014**

The Board of Governors Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, at The Northampton County Bar Association Office in Easton, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.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> </u>	Robert Eyer
<u> X </u>	Maura Zajac McGuire
<u> </u>	Michael A. Santanasto
<u> X </u>	Karley Biggs Sebia
<u> X </u>	Lisa Spitale
<u> X </u>	Thomas L. Walters
<u> X </u>	Joseph P. Yannuzzi

Executive Director:

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

Minutes of the previous meeting held on May 7, 2014, were circulated for review. A MOTION to approve the minutes was made by Margle, and was seconded by Zajac McGuire. The MOTION was approved unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Reid reported on the following matters:

A. Communications

i. Letter of May 8, 2014, from Paul S. Koffsky, Deputy General Counsel of the Department of Defense Office of the General Counsel. Koffsky was requesting input from the NCBA with regard to the operation of the Military Justice System.

ii. Letter of May 20, 2014, from State Senator David G. Argall of the 29th District with regard to Senate Bill 76 on expansion of the Sales & Use Tax. This letter was in response to Reid's letter to Senator Argall of May 15, 2014, indicating the NCBA's concerns about the serious and negative consequences of expanding the Sales & Use Tax. Senator Argall is the Sponsor of the Bill and Senator Lisa Boscola is a Co-Sponsor.

The Board discussed what other steps should be taken to oppose Senate Bill 76. Reid will call for a meeting with Senator Boscola, and Reid will also contact the Lehigh County Bar Association to see if any of its members wish to participate. Finally, Reid will send a letter to all Members of the NCBA enclosing a copy of his correspondence with Senator Argall, encouraging Members to write to their respective representatives.

iii. Letter of December 30, 2013, from the Jacobsburg Historical Society with a request to the NCBA for a donation. After discussion by the Board, no further action necessary.

iv. Letter of January 7, 2014, from Meals on Wheels to the NCBA requesting a donation. After discussion by the Board, no further action required.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Lopiano-Reilly presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Members of the Board. She announced the total balance as follows: for May 31, 2014, \$1,132,857.44. A MOTION was made by O'Donnell to approve the Treasurer's Report, and was seconded by Yannuzzi. The MOTION was approved unanimously.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Leeson reported on the following matters:

- A. Leeson inquired whether the Board would like to continue with the annual Legislative Breakfast in July of 2014. After discussion, the Board agreed that it should be continued, and efforts should be made to obtain greater participation by the legislators.

- B. The basement of the NCBA flooded twice more since our last Board meeting in May. Remediation efforts have already been made.
- C. One of the back windows of the NCBA was shot out by what appears to be a BB gun. Police were called. The NCBA is awaiting a copy of the police report.
- D. The second payment for this year's NCBA donation to the North Penn Legal Services will be going out this week.
- E. The Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley provided a report to Leeson on the MLK 2014 event. The Volunteer Center thanked the NCBA for its donations and for Leeson's participation in the program.
- F. The NCBA's Iron Pigs baseball event will be held at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown on July 2, 2014. Tickets are still available.
- G. Tickets to the play *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the Pennsylvania Play House in Bethlehem are still available for June 13, 2014.
- H. The swearing-in and ceremony for Judge Edward G. Smith will occur on Friday, June 6, 2014.
- I. The 2014 NCBA telephone directories are completed and available.
- J. The NCBA Facebook page has been created and is now operational.
- K. The National Association for Bar Executives (NABE) Annual Conference is coming up soon. The 2014 NCBA budget does not include any allocation for Leeson to attend. After discussion by the Board, a MOTION was made by Lopiano-Reilly to add a line item to the 2014 NCBA budget and approve payment of up to \$999.00 toward Leeson's attendance at the NABE Annual Conference in Boston this year. The MOTION was seconded by Kassis. The MOTION was approved unanimously.

V. PROGRAMS

Lopiano-Reilly reported that she is still seeking a speaker for the upcoming November NCBA Quarterly Meeting. Leeson indicated that Judge Smith had approached her asking to speak about the Federal court system at this year's NCBA Bench Bar Conference. Leeson suggested that perhaps it would be a good subject and garner better attendance at the Quarterly Meeting. Lopiano-Reilly will inquire of Judge Smith.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Pennsylvania State Finance Committee – Sales Tax on Legal Services – Reid discussed the subject earlier in the meeting during the Communications portion of the Board meeting.
- B. Building update – Reid reported that he and Member Justin McCarthy have been trying to contact each other for the past two (2) weeks. They were able to speak on Monday of this week. Reid communicated to McCarthy that the NCBA is interested in McCarthy's Bechtel Building in Bethlehem as a possible future site for the NCBA Office. However, the NCBA would need a favorable long-term lease. Reid reported that McCarthy very much wants to reach an arrangement with the NCBA. The building is currently listed for rent at \$16 per square foot. Reid proposed \$10 per square foot. McCarthy reported that he was looking for something more, but there are other options that he is open to discussing with the NCBA.

After discussion by the Board, some Board Members voiced concerns about moving from the current NCBA Office, entering into a lease arrangement rather than ownership, and/or costs associated with fitting-out the building on top of the cost of monthly rent.

With regard to the Bechtel Building, Reid will continue to pursue discussions with McCarthy.

- C. Judge Zito portrait – Reid spoke to Judge Zito about the commissioning of his portrait for the Courthouse. Leeson will forward to Zito a list of potential artists along with the maximum dollar amount that will be covered by the NCBA toward the cost of the portrait.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Biggs Sebia, and was seconded by Spitale. The MOTION was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the next Board Meeting on Wednesday, July 30, 2014, at the NCBA Office, Easton, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully submitted:



Daniel M. O'Donnell, Secretary