

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING
January 9, 2013**

The first Board of Governors Meeting for 2013 was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at the River Grille, 243 Northampton Street, Easton, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by new President Stanley J. Margle, III at 5:44 p.m.

ATTENDEES (as marked):

Officers:

- X Stanley J. Margle, III, President
- X Christopher M. Reid, President Elect
- X Abraham P. Kassis, Vice President
- X Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly, Treasurer
- X Michael P. Shay, Secretary
- X Victor E. Scomillio, Past President

Board Members

- X Robert M. Donchez
- X Robert Eyer
- X Daniel M. O'Donnell
- X Karley Biggs Sebia
- X Lisa M. Spitale
- X Thomas L. Walters
- X Joseph P. Yanuzzi

Executive Director

- X Mary Beth Leeson

I. WELCOME

President Margle welcomed two new members of the Board of Governors - Robert Eyer, and Karley Biggs Sebia. He expressed the importance of maintaining confidentiality of discussions at meetings of the Board of Governors.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting on December 5, 2012 were submitted and reviewed. A **MOTION** to approve the minutes was made by Victor E. Scomillio, and seconded by Lisa M. Spitale. The **MOTION** to approve the minutes was unanimously approved, with an abstention by Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

President Margle reviewed correspondence received by the President and the Association.

A thank you note was received from the personnel in the Northampton County Bar Association office for the bonuses and raises approved at the December 5, 2012 meeting.

The President received a letter from Christopher T. Spadoni, Esquire expressing best wishes for his 2013 tenure as President.

The NCBA received a letter dated January 8, 2013 from the Director of the Easton Area Public Library and District Center thanking the Association for a gift in memory of the Honorable Gay Lee Elwell District Judge.

A letter dated January 2, 2013 from John G. Thomas, III, Professor Business Law/Paralegal Studies at Northampton Community College was reviewed and discussed. That letter expressed thanks to the NCBA and the Board of Governors for its continuing sponsorship of a graduation award to an NCC paralegal student and requested participation this year in the program. After a **MOTION** by Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly and a second by Christopher M. Reid, the Board voted unanimously to approve a contribution at the same level in the sum of \$500.00 to the award to a NCC paralegal student, as requested in the letter dated January 2, 2013 from Professor Thomas.

State Senator Lisa M. Boscola sent a letter dated December 28, 2012 to then President Scomillio. Enclosed with the letter was a letter dated October 22, 2012 from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Revenue Office of Legislative Affairs which addressed a concern previously expressed relating to the Department of Revenues turnaround time for processing inheritance tax returns.

The registration form for the annual seminar of the Conference of County Bar Leaders scheduled for February 21st through 23rd 2013, at the Nittany Lion Inn, at Penn State was distributed to the Board. It was noted that the deadline for registration is February 1, 2013. The NCBA pays for the cost of the hotel, and registration for the seminar, for those members of the Board of Governors attending the conference. President Margle asked that members of the Board who intend to attend the seminar advise him that they are going.

There was discussion about a letter received from Jonathan B. Acklen, Esquire of Cohen & Feeley, and Judge Jack A. Panella concerning NCBA support of a Black Heritage Month Program. The program on behalf of the Boys and Girls club of Easton will take place at Lafayette College. It was noted that the NCBA contributed \$500.00 to the program last year. Christopher M. Reid made a **MOTION**, which was seconded by Victor E. Scomillio, that a \$500.00 contribution for the acknowledgement and ad in a program for Black Heritage Month be made on behalf of the NCBA. That **MOTION** was passed and approved unanimously.

President Margle made an announcement that the Superior Court will be sitting for two sessions at the Northampton Community College on February 26th and 27th for arguments. A dinner will be held the evening of February 26, 2013 for the Superior Court Judges attending that session. The Judges of the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas, the District Attorney and the Board of Governors will be invited to attend that dinner. The NCBA will be paying the cost of the dinner. A **MOTION** was made by Abraham P. Kassis, and seconded by Joseph P. Yanuzzi for the NCBA to cover the cost of the dinner for the Superior Court session on February 26, 2013. That **MOTION** was passed unanimously.

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly presented the Treasurer's Report which was circulated for review by the Members of the Board. The balances in the NCBA accounts and investments were highlighted. A **MOTION** was made by Lisa M. Spitale, and seconded by Christopher M. Reid to approve the Treasurer's Report. That **MOTION** was unanimously approved.

There was also discussion about a certificate of deposit which expires at the end of January.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson reviewed various items with the Board of Governors. The 2013 calendar of events for the NCBA has been circulated.

The Annual Reception for the Court will take place on April 5, 2013 at the Northampton Country Club. Member Louis S. Minotti, Jr., will be honored, for his 50 years as a member of the NCBA.

Prior to the Annual Reception for the Court at 6:30 p.m., there will be a pre-reception gathering for the members of the Bench, the Board of Governors, and the Young Lawyers Division.

There was discussion concerning the donation to North Penn Legal Services in the sum of \$50,000.00 approved by the NCBA last year. Executive Director Leeson inquired as to whether quarterly payments of that donation could be made. The general consensus of the Board was that quarterly payments were acceptable.

Next year, 2014, represents the 140th anniversary of the NCBA. Executive Director Leeson inquired as to whether there was any interest for a program or event to commemorate the anniversary. No interest was expressed by the Board in a specific program or event to celebrate the 140th anniversary. No action was taken by the Board on this issue.

On December 23, 2012 the NCBA placed an advertisement in The Morning Call for public relations purposes. A copy of the ad was circulated at the meeting. The ad noted the various community and charitable activities and services on behalf of the NCBA.

Lawrence B. Fox, a member of the NCBA, circulated a letter to the members of the NCBA in December concerning his play which will be presented in February at the Shawnee Playhouse.

VI. PROGRAMS

Vice President Abraham P. Kassis presented a report concerning upcoming programs. At the Annual Association Meeting on January 17, 2013, the program will be "Issues in Sports Law" and will be conducted by speaker George J. Daniel, Esquire, Commissioner of the National Lacrosse League. Arrangements are being made for Judge Smith to present a program at the second quarterly meeting. Details of the program will be supplied.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

President Margle discussed the long range planning plan status. He expressed his intention to encourage the NCBA committees to have at least one meeting a year. He expressed the goal of having committees be more active.

A report was given concerning a meeting of President Margle, Victor E. Scmillio, and Kerry Freidl with a representative of Corto Financial Group. That group had expressed interest in making a presentation to the NCBA concerning a disability insurance program for members. If a sufficient number of members would sign up for the disability insurance program, there would be a fee generated for the NCBA. The general consensus was that there wouldn't be sufficient interest by the members of the NCBA to make the program feasible. No action was taken with regard to any further activity to promote this program.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

The agenda for the meeting listed as an item of New Business a "Request to Support Black Heritage Month-Easton Girls/ Boys Club." That matter was addressed during the presentation of the President's Report. It was noted that a **MOTION** had been passed earlier in the meeting approving a contribution in the sum of \$500.00 to the Easton Girls/ Boys Club for the Black Heritage Month program. In another matter on the Agenda President Margle was asked to outline the goals from his perspective for the NCBA during 2013. He outlined the following goals.

(1) There has been a decline in participation in major NCBA events including the Summer Outing, the Bench Bar Conference, and the Judges' Reception. It was recommended that steps be taken to encourage member attendance and participation in NCBA events.

(2) Concerns relating to lack of activity by NCBA committees were again noted. A goal was set that each committee should have at least one meeting during the year.

(3) It was noted that last year there were approximately 18 or 19 lunch lecture CLE programs. A goal of at least two if not three or more CLE programs per month was encouraged.

In other new business, Victor E. Scmillio brought to the attention of the Board that Judge Giordano is up for retention this year. In the past the NCBA has conducted a survey of its members concerning the approval for retention of Judges. Apparently, Judge Giordano has approved of a referendum from the NCBA on his retention. The results of the referendum are given to the Judge running for retention, and are not made public by the NCBA.

Christopher M. Reid gave a report concerning a recent Finance Committee meeting. Discussions centered on how the NCBA should invest and spend its money. A suggestion was made that an investment policy statement be created which would establish the guidelines for NCBA investments. Christopher M. Reid indicated that he

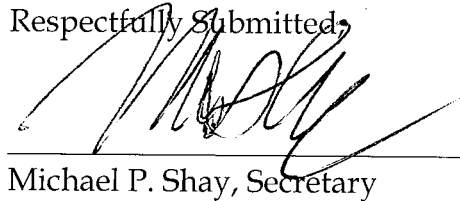
would assist Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly in a meeting to put together an investment policy statement.

Executive Director Leeson raised the potential for the submission of an application for a State IOLTA grant for North Penn Legal Services. The deadline for submission of an application for this year is January 18, 2013. It was generally agreed that it would not be possible to put together an application for this year. There was discussion about a grant for a program to have lawyers go to food banks to provide legal guidance for those who participate in the food bank. Discussion took place concerning whether Attorney Victoria A. Coyle of North Penn Legal Services should present a proposal for a grant application for next year. No formal action was taken by the Board concerning the submission of a State IOLTA grant application.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:42 p.m. the meeting was adjourned upon **MOTION** of Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly, with a second by Thomas L. Walters. The **MOTION** to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Shay', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael P. Shay, Secretary