

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
February 6, 2013**

The Board of Governors Meeting for February 2013 was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at the Marblehead Chowder House, 4101 William Penn Highway, Easton, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order by President Stanley J. Margle, III at 5:42 p.m. An agenda for the meeting dated January 31, 2013 was circulated to the Board of Governors prior to the meeting. The following meeting minutes reflect that there were deviations from the order set forth in the agenda dated January 31, 2013.

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. Scmillio, Past President

Board Members

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

Executive Director

- X Mary Beth Leeson

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the meeting on January 9, 2013, were submitted and reviewed. A Motion to approve the minutes was made by Daniel M. O'Donnell, and seconded by Christopher M. Reid. The **MOTION** to approve the minutes was unanimously approved, by all Members of the Board in attendance at the meeting at the time of the review and Motion to Approve the Minutes.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was reviewed by President Margle, without any action taken by the Board:

- a. Correspondence dated January 9, 2013, was sent to the Board of Governors by Samuel W. Milkes, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, and Barry Simpson, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. That correspondence contained an invitation to attend a reception being held the evening before the start of the CCBL Conference at the Nittany Lion Inn at Pennsylvania State University.
- b. Debbie Zoller, Executive Director of the Jewish Family Service sent a letter expressing sincere appreciation for a donation in the sum of \$100.00 in memory of Jay Scherline.
- c. Alison L. Norton, Director of Development and Communications of North Penn Legal Services sent a letter dated January 18, 2013 to the Northampton County Bar Association expressing thanks for the contribution in the sum of \$12,500.00.
- d. Karl H. Kline sent a letter dated January 14, 2013, to past president Victor E. Scmillio expressing thanks for forwarding information received from State Senator Boscola concerning the Department of Revenue's delay in reviewing inheritance tax returns.
- e. A letter dated December 4, 2012 was sent to the Northampton County Bar Association by Priscilla B. Schueck, Chief Executive Officer of the Volunteer Center of the Lehigh Valley. The letter expressed thanks and appreciation for a donation of \$2,000.00 to the Volunteer Center for the 2013 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Literacy program at the Easton Area School District Elementary Schools.

President Margle brought to the attention of the Board a letter dated February 4, 2013, directed to the NCBA by member Tara Eckels. That letter requested financial assistance for Ms. Eckels Northampton County Bar Association dues. The letter essentially sought relief and financial assistance concerning her Northampton County Bar Association dues. In the letter Ms. Eckels indicated that due to her decrease in hours of employment her financial situation has suffered.

Following a review of the letter by the Board of Governors there was extensive discussion about the request for financial assistance from Ms. Eckels contained in her letter of February 4, 2013. Several members of the Board of Directors expressed concern about the precedent that would be involved in granting the request for financial assistance. Concern was also expressed about the alleged justification for the request having an economic basis, rather than a basis related to illness, or a similar non-economic hardship. There was some indication that relief from NCBA dues should be limited to matters involving family or medical emergencies.

Following the extensive discussion a **MOTION** to deny the request of Ms. Eckels as set forth in her letter dated February 4, 2013, but to extend an alternative offer to extend the period for payment of dues to the end of the calendar year, was made by Treasurer Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly. That **MOTION** was seconded by Member Robert Eyer. The **MOTION** was unanimously approved. President Margle indicated that he would send a letter to Tara Eckels advising her of the response to her letter of February 4, 2013, and the **MOTION** adopted by the Board of Governors.

During the President's Report/Correspondence Agenda item, President Margle also brought the following matters to the attention of the Board.

President Margle noted the upcoming CCBL Conference at Penn State.

It was noted that the Annual Reception for the Court will be held on Friday, April 5, 2013. President Margle encouraged attendance by the members of the Board, and the members of the NCBA.

President Margle reported that Judge McFadden is receptive to the proposed pre-reception gathering prior to the reception for the Court detailed in the minutes for the Board of Governors meeting of January 9, 2013.

President Margle indicated that the current Pennsylvania Bar Association President is generally invited to a quarterly meeting or another event of the NCBA during the term of the current president's presidency. President Margle expressed no feeling or position one way or the other concerning the extension of an invitation to the current PBA President to attend a NCBA meeting. Following discussion it was agreed that the current PBA President, and another potential representative of the PBA, would be invited to the September quarterly meeting of the NCBA.

President Margle reported that the plans for the Superior Court session at the Northampton County Community College detailed in the meeting minutes for the Board of Governors Meeting of January 9, 2013 were proceeding as planned. The proposed dinner meeting with the Judges of the Superior Court, and other Judges, scheduled for February 26, 2013 at Moscato's was also proceeding as planned.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly presented the Treasurer's Report which was circulated for review by the Members of the Board. Treasurer Lopiano-Reilly also reported on additional items. She indicated that she was "enlightened" by a recent finance committee which she attended. She stated that if the NCBA were to lose the Reporter income, there would be an approximate \$300,000.00 deficit in the budget. Treasurer Lopiano-Reilly, also brought to the attention of the Board the amounts of the payroll account, and the general account, at one bank. Following the discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Vice President Kassis to approve the Treasurer's Report. That Motion was seconded by Member Lisa M. Spitale. The **MOTION** was unanimously approved.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson reviewed various items with the Board of Governors.

It was noted that the plebiscite concerning judicial retention was sent by mail approximately one and one half weeks prior to the meeting to Members of the NCBA. It was noted that the deadline for a response was approaching. At the time of the meeting, the Executive Director reported that approximately 205 responses had been received, but that some of the responses would not be counted since they were invalidly submitted.

The invitations to the Reception for the Court on April 5, 2013 were to be sent out the week following the meeting. It was noted that Louis S. Minotti, Jr., Esq., would be the 50 year honoree at the Reception for the Court.

There were still tickets available for the Flyers hockey game trip scheduled for March 2, 2013.

The Executive Director expressed her desire to reactivate the Activities Committee to have discussions about NCBA sponsored day trips.

The Executive Director gave a report concerning the Finance Committee meeting, and the subject of an audit. The Executive Director stated that to her knowledge the

NCBA has never had a full audit. There was a suggestion that we invest and expend funds for a complete audit.

Following discussion, Treasurer Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly made a **MOTION** to engage and retain the accounting firm of Abraham Borda to perform a full audit on the accounts of the Northampton County Bar Association. A second to that **MOTION** was made by Vice President Abraham P. Kassis. The Motion was approved. The **MOTION** and proposed audit will be brought to the attention of the membership at the next NCBA quarterly meeting for approval for the year 2013.

There was discussion concerning the State Legislative Committee breakfast usually held in the month of July.

The Executive Director gave a review and report concerning having the Reporter online. This is an issue which will be addressed at the CCBL meeting. It was suggested that any action concerning having the Reporter online will be deferred until after the CCBL meeting. It is anticipated that this will be an agenda item for the March Board of Governors meeting.

V. PROGRAMS

Vice President Abraham P. Kassis indicated that Judge Smith would be presenting a program at the March quarterly meeting. No topic had yet been designated.

The program for the May quarterly meeting will be the malpractice avoidance seminar.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Past President Victor E. Scmillio gave an update concerning a request for Members of the NCBA to be approved for appointments to the Federal Bench. It is anticipated that there will be discussion at the March quarterly meeting concerning this request. It is proposed that the request be sent to the President of the United States, and to the two United States Senators from Pennsylvania.

Past President Victor E. Scmillio raised a question about the Soiree being held at the Riverview Country Club. Apparently, the owner and developer of the Riverview Country Club has filed lawsuits against three lawyers who are members of the NCBA. There was discussion concerning whether the event should be held at the Riverview Country Club in view of the lawsuits against three members. Following discussion, it appears that some attempt will be made for an alternate site for the Soiree.

A report was given about planning for the 2014 Bench-Bar Conference. A Committee is in place for planning the Conference. Attorney Steven E. Hoffman is the chairperson for the Committee. A site for the Conference has not yet been selected. Also, there is a problem concerning the selection of a date in October due to the Penn State football schedule and Rosh Hashanah.

Treasurer Lopiano-Reilly gave an update concerning the establishment of an investment policy for the NCBA. The intention is to have a recommended policy for review and approval by the membership at a regular quarterly meeting. We are one of a few Bar Associations with no investment policy.

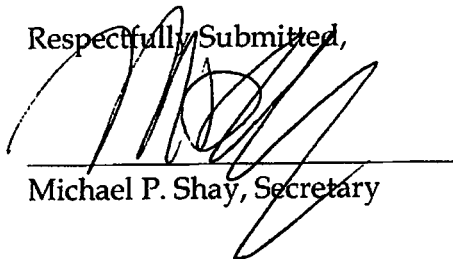
VII. NEW BUSINESS

Member Daniel M. O'Donnell gave a report concerning the Bench Bar Relations Committee. He advised the Board that he is looking for a meeting of the Committee in March. Since the Committee has not met "in a while", Mr. O'Donnell is looking for guidance concerning the activities of the Bench Bar Relations Committee. He stated that the initial meeting this year will probably not include a Judge. It was suggested that a follow up meeting would be held with a Judge in attendance.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Following an extensive meeting, a **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Joseph Yanuzzi, and seconded by Lisa M. Spitale. The **MOTION** to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael P. Shay, Secretary