

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING  
September 4, 2013**

The Board of Governors Meeting for September was held on Wednesday, September 4, 2013 at the River Grille in Easton, Pennsylvania. The meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. 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:**

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

**Board Members**

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

**Executive Director**

- ☒ Mary Beth Leeson

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes for the previous meeting held on July 31, 2013, were circulated to the Members of the Board of Governors prior to the meeting for review. A **MOTION** to approve the minutes was made by Member Lisa M. Spitale. That **MOTION** was seconded by Member Joseph P. Yanuzzi. The **MOTION** to approve the minutes was passed with two abstentions.

## **II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS**

President Stanley J. Margle, III, announced that a thank you note had been received from Peter McEvoy, Esq., for his attendance as the NCBA Young Lawyer representative to the PBA Young Lawyers' Division New Admittee Conference.

## **III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly presented the Treasurer's Report which was previously circulated for review by the Members of the Board. She announced the account balances of the various NCBA accounts. The total deposits on account as of August 31, 2013 were \$1,030,510.54. A **MOTION** was made by Member Robert Eyer to approve the Treasurer's Report. That **MOTION** was seconded by Past President Victor E. Scmillio. That **MOTION** was unanimously approved.

## **IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson presented her report which included the following items.

- a. The Amicus Soirée is scheduled for Friday, October 18, 2013 at the Riverview Country Club. The invitations will be going out shortly in the mail for attendance at the event. A question was raised concerning payment for attendance by the law clerks. It was noted that the Judges pay for their own way for attendance at the event. Following discussion, a **MOTION** was made by Past President Victor E. Scmillio that the NCBA pay for the attendance by the clerks, but that there would be no payment by the NCBA for attendance by guests of the law clerks. That **MOTION** was seconded by Treasurer Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly. The **MOTION** was unanimously approved.
- b. A report was given concerning the People's Law School which will be conducted by various members of the NCBA at the Northampton Community College.

- c. The Young Lawyers Division will be conducting a golf outing and happy hour on September 26, 2013 at the Bethlehem Municipal Golf Course and Starters Pub. The golf is scheduled to begin at noon. The happy hour is scheduled for 5:00.
- d. A reminder was given concerning the annual Memorial Service which will take place on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 in Courtroom No. 1. The Memorial Service will be in memory and commemoration of the Honorable Isaac S. Garb, Mark S. Refowich, Esquire, and Jay A. Scherline, Esquire, who passed away within the past year.

## V. PROGRAMS

The program for the NCBA Quarterly Association meeting for September 19, 2013 has been set. The program is entitled "Beware the 'Silent Killers' in Your Practice".

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Miracle League softball Game. President Margle announced that the Miracle League NCBA vs. Express Times softball game was a success. First, the NCBA team won. Second, \$5,250.00 was raised for the Miracle League charity. President Margle presented the donation to the Miracle League at a Board Meeting of the Miracle League.

It was also announced that another softball outing is planned, with a tournament format for November 2, 2013. President Margle asked Past President Scmillio to send out an email to all team members advising them of the November 2, 2013 game.

- b. Liquor Liability Insurance. The prior issue concerning liquor liability insurance for NCBA events at which alcohol is served was discussed. It was agreed that the NCBA should purchase special liquor liability insurance for events which involve alcohol provided by the NCBA.
- c. By-Laws Committee Update. Secretary Shay discussed a recent meeting of the By-Laws Committee to discuss a request from the Fee Dispute Committee to adopt a fee dispute application and information form for clients of members to institute a fee dispute complaint hearing. The By-Laws Committee did not suggest adoption of the fee dispute committee proposal. However, there were recommendations concerning changes in the existing By-Laws to conform the By-Laws to the existing fee dispute hearing process. Secretary Shay indicated that he would prepare proposed by-law revisions for adoption through the amendment process.

- d. Long Range Planning Committee Reports. The status of the various committees involved in the NCBA-Long Range Planning 2012-2015, as of September 2013 were reviewed including the following:

1. The goal of buying versus expanding the NCBA building developments was discussed. Specifically, the report of Steve Glickman who was retained by the NCBA for an architectural review and proposal concerning expansion of the existing NCBA building was discussed. It was reported that the projected costs for the expansion range from approximately 1.2 million to 1.5 million dollars. President Margle indicated that he was "staggered" by the report. It was decided that the Members of the NCBA would be advised of the report, with no recommendations by the Board of Governors. It was also decided that no special meeting to review the report would be scheduled. Rather, it will be added to the November Quarterly Meeting Agenda with notice.
2. Member Daniel M. O'Donnell gave a report concerning the implementation of President Judge Barratta's proposal for an opportunity for members of the NCBA to advise the Court concerning issues involving Judges.

- e. Amendment to the Notice to Plead Rule. Board Member Daniel M. O'Donnell presented a report with regard to a proposed amendment to the Notice to Plead.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Anthony Martino Concerns. Treasurer Lopiano-Reilly through an e-mail communication had requested that concerns she had about Anthony Martino's possible retention of client files be added as an agenda item. Discussion took place about jurisdictional issues involving a disbarred member and procedures to insure protection of former clients.
- b. PBA Award Winner-Stanley M. Vasiliadias Esquire. Board Member Stanley M. Vasiliadias, Esquire has been honored by the Pennsylvania Bar Association Elder Law Section. It was agreed that his PBA elder law award recognition would be announced at a Quarterly Meeting and congratulations would be offered to him.
- c. Handbook for Self-Represented Litigants. President Margle led a discussion concerning the proposed handbook for Northampton County

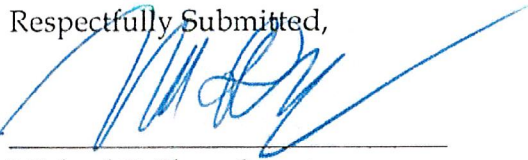
self-represented litigants sent to President Margle by President Judge Stephen G. Baratta on August 20, 2013. The draft of the handbook was submitted to the Members of the Board of Governors for review. Some Members expressed concerns about the length and detail of the handbook. The general consensus was that the handbook for self-represented litigants is a good idea that primarily involves the Court and the self-represented litigants. No formal action was taken by the Board with regard to the proposed handbook.

- d. Nominating Committee Report. President Margle gave a report concerning the nominating committee for upcoming vacancies on the Board of Governors. The committee proposes that Daniel M. O'Donnell, Esquire be nominated for the position of secretary. It was recommended that Maura Zajac McGuire, Esquire be nominated as a Member of the Board of Governors. It was also recommended that Michael A. Santanasto, Esquire, be nominated for the Board of Governors as the young lawyer member.
- e. Proposed 2014 Budget. The process for budget review and approval for a 2014 budget for the NCBA continued at the meeting. Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson indicated that the revised proposed budget does balance. She reviewed the various items of significance in the budget. The proposed revised budget will be presented again at the next Board of Governors meeting on October 2, 2013. The goal is to have the budget ready for review by the membership of the NCBA at the November quarterly meeting.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There were multiple Members of the Board of Governors who made **MOTIONS** to adjourn , and seconds to **MOTIONS** to adjourn. The **MOTION** to adjourn was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. The Board of Governors will convene again for the October meeting on October 2, 2013 at the Vintage at Morgan Hill in Easton, Pennsylvania.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael P. Shay, Secretary