

MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

January 8, 2020

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2020, at the River Grille, in Easton Pennsylvania at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by President R. Eyer. 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:

 X Robert Eyer, President
 X Maura Zajac McGuire, President-Elect
 X Paul J. Harak, Vice President
 X Steven B. Molder, Treasurer
 X Jeremy Clark, Secretary
 X Lisa Spitale, Past President

Board Members:

 X David M. Backenstoe
 X Richard Santee
 X Scott Wilhelm
 X Douglas Tkacik
 X Erika Farkas
 X Jill McComsey
 X Joshua Fulmer

Executive Director:

 X Mary Beth Leeson

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting held on December 4, 2019 were circulated for review. S. Wilhelm made a motion to approve the minutes and R. Santee

seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/COMMUNICATIONS

Robert Eyer, President, reported on the following matters:

1. A thank you letter from NPLS, dated 12/16/19, for the Association's support of the Raise a Glass fundraiser, which was a success.
2. R. Eyer notified the Board of the passing of member Gilbert Negrete who had not been active for some time due to illness. Some discussion was had about including him in the memorial service and it was decided to leave this decision to his family.
3. R. Eyer also welcomed the new Board members and reminded them of their responsibilities regarding conflicts of interest as well as the confidential nature of the discussions at these meetings.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

S. Molder, Treasurer, reported the amount currently in the Bank is \$1,384,628.77. S. Molder expressed concern with the decreasing revenue of the association and that if trends continue this could present problems for the association in the future. There was discussion that the current Reporter revenue was more typical than the recent years resulting from the mortgage foreclosure crisis. The report was submitted for audit after a motion by M. McGuire and second by L. Spitale.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Leeson reported on the following matters:

1. Reviewed the success of the first annual holiday party. YLD has offered to help with the 2020 edition of this party.
2. YLD had a successful winter clothing drive for Stand Down a local veteran's organization.
3. This year's Bench Bar conference will be in Washington DC at the Mayflower from Sept. 24 – 26. Looking for ideas for speakers, CLEs and events for members. Some discussion was had about potential speakers and leveraging local Federal judges as well as our state representative in Congress.
4. Committee re-organization and appointment of new chairs on-going.
5. Due to the moving of Miscellaneous Court to Wednesday, there will be

conflict with the summer Board meetings on Wednesday mornings. After discussion, it was decided to move these to the Fridays of those weeks and start the meetings at 8:00 AM

6. Mock Trial will be held in February. There will be a need for Association members to serve as jurors, judges, and even timers – the later of which some members seemed intimidated by and requested exemptions. No motion on this request was made and as such none were granted.
7. There was extensive discussion of the next several years of 50-year honorees at the Reception for the Court. The anticipated number of honorees being far more than has been typical. The concern was the length of speeches and the best way to mitigate this problem. R. Eyer stated he would start an ad hoc committee to address this potential issue.

V. PROGRAMS

Vice President Paul Harak, reported:

1. January 23rd meeting would cover the use of cell phone/smart phone data in trial and introducing the same into evidence.
2. March 19th meeting would feature an employment law primer for solo-practitioners and non-employment law attorneys.
3. M.B. Leeson stated that she had subject ideas but not speakers for these topics and PH and M.B. Leeson would discuss this further at a future date.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. A BOG liaison is needed to sit on the board of the NCBA Charitable Foundation. J. Fulmer volunteered to serve in this capacity.
2. NCBA Charitable Foundation Report –
 - a. May 28th would be the next event held. It will be a whiskey tasting and history with a 1920's theme. The event would again be held at ArtsQuest and sponsors are still needed. Additionally, silent auction items are needed. The community partner for this event is Meals on Wheels and there was some discussion about this positive organization.
 - b. Additionally, the Foundation is still accepting grant applications for the potential distribution of up to a \$10,000 grant.
3. Capital Reserve Fund – a revised policy drafted by R. Santee was previously distributed to the Board. There was some discussion but it was decided that further review of the policy by the Board was necessary. The matter will be

placed on the February agenda.

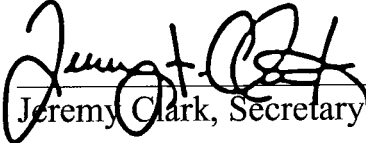
VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. CCBL event registration is now and M.B. Leeson encouraged anyone attending (or thinking of attending) to book a room now as rooms do fill up quickly. There was some discussion of which members were considering attending the event.
2. Executive Session was held by the Board to discuss employment matters. No action was taken or votes held.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by D. Tkacik . The motion was seconded by M. McGuire. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:



Jeremy Clark, Secretary