

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING**

February 5, 2020

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2020, at The Bayou, in Easton, Pennsylvania, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Past President Spitale. 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:

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

Board Members:

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

Executive Director:

Mary Beth Leeson

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the previous meeting held on January 5, 2020 were circulated for review. D. Backenstoe 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

L. Spitale, Past President, reported on behalf of R. Eyer, the following matters:

A letter from member V. Scomillio requesting the Board lend its support to an effort to name the Juvenile Justice Center after the late Judge Moran. The Board was overall very positively inclined toward this effort. S. Wilhelm inquired as to who makes this decision and some suggestion was had involving to whom the Board should contact. Ultimately, it was decided that the Board would send a letter suggesting this to the County Executive, the President Judge, and the Court Administrator.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

No report. February's report will be presented at the next meeting.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Leeson reported on the following matters:

1. Volunteers still needed for Mock Trial competition.
2. No committee was formed for how to deal with the increased number of fifty year honorees at the upcoming Reception for the Court events. MB Leeson stated that due to approaching deadlines any changes in the format would need to occur next year.
3. Interviews for new staff positions are ongoing with the goal of hiring a new person soon.
4. MB Leeson requested feedback from BOG on any events conducted by the Association (Bench Bar, Law Day, etc.)
5. A long discussion was held over the upcoming Bench Bar and what CLEs to offer and the timing of these sessions. Ultimately, it was decided that one would be on Thursday, later in the afternoon (3 or 4PM), three on Friday morning, and one Saturday morning.
6. Although he couldn't attend, D. Tkacik was happy to create work for other members of the BOG by suggesting that a system should be implemented to ensure new members are paired up with Board Members at the quarterly meeting when they are admitted. Not to be outdone, J. Fulmer created more work for MB Leeson by suggesting she email the members with the names

and details (if known) about new members ahead of the meeting. The rest of the Board agreed, each member happy that they were not specifically assigned any new tasks.

7. The May 6th meeting that was rescheduled to May 8th was moved back to a May 6th dinner. The Secretary is setting the over/under for members that screw this date and time up after all these reschedules at 4.5.
8. The next meeting will be at 1001 Thai which has excellent food but is BYO. J. Clark volunteered to bring a bottle of bourbon and L. Spitale offered to bring wine. The other members will evidently mooch.

V. PROGRAMS

Vice President Paul Harak was not present but it was confirmed that:

March 19th meeting would feature an employment law primer for solo-practitioners and non-employment law attorneys.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. J. Fulmer provided the Foundation update listing several suppliers/vendors who will be present for this summer's event at Steel Stacks. There will be a cash bar or ability to purchase additional sample tickets. There was some concern expressed as to liability if someone over-consumes further cementing the reputation of lawyers as no-fun worry warts. The suppliers will not be able to sell bottles at the event thanks to Pennsylvania's draconian liquor laws. There will, however, be a blind wine grab (there is a joke here somewhere...). Save the dates expected to mail shortly.
2. Capital Reserve Fund
 - a. R. Santee summarized the purpose of the CRF then reviewed the plan, previously distributed to the BOG, with those present.
 - b. J. Clark suggested submitting this to the Finance Committee for review, comments, suggestions. It was also suggested by S. Wilhelm to have R. Santee present this proposal to the Committee – the Board agreed punishing R. Santee's competence with additional work.
3. E. Giordano requested that the NCBA stand-up a committee on ADR. It was suggested that perhaps a regular CLE on ADR would be better than a committee. L. Spitale agreed to discuss the matter further with E. Giordano.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. R. Santee discussed a new local rule of Civil Procedure whereby a scheduling order will be automatically issued upon the filing of an Answer.
2. Due to his frequent and meaningful contributions that evening R. Santee was the "Member of the Meeting" and shall enjoy all rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

VIII ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by R. Santee. The motion was seconded by E. Farkas. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:


Jeremy Clark, Secretary