

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

**May 6, 2020**

The Board of Governors meeting was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, via a Zoom Meeting due to the COVID-19 stay at home orders at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by President 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 April 1, 2020 were circulated for review.

Tkacik made a motion to approve the minutes and Backenstoe seconded the motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Robert Eyer, President, reported on:

- A. Passing of Patty's husband since our last meeting. A discussion about the arrangements in light of his passing during the social lockdown protocol. Obituary to be published when the actual memorial service will be conducted at a date TBD.
- B. Email from Member E. Giordano regarding a mediation CLE – this will be discussed during the Ad Hoc committee report.
- C. A review of all the cancelled/postponed events in the coming months. A discussion about the next quarterly meeting with its ethics CLE may be conducted via Zoom but the PBA has not finalized that yet.
- D. A thank you letter was received from the LV Community Foundation for the \$3,000 donation made by the association.

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

Steven Molder, Treasurer, reported on the amount balances on the accounts that were sent to the board members prior. A continued decline in balances but expected further difficulties in the markets. MBL also pointed out that the PBA payment was postponed so this isn't a perfect year-to-year comparison.

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

Executive Director Leeson reported on the following matters:

- A. Summer Outing. Caterer is on-board still and understands the issues presented by the pandemic has agreed to be flexible. Perhaps we re-think the summer outing at some point soon. An adjustment to the format may be required. A discussion was made about if we should cancel the outing now or wait until June. No golf outing was confirmed it was decided to not book a golf location and to wait until June to perhaps cancel the outing in its entirety.
- B. Finance Committee. When is the next meeting? Discussion was to hold a June meeting. MBL and McGuire will meet later to select a date.
- C. Business continues within the Association HQ. ARIS calls ongoing and reporter still being printed. Scheduling about 20-25 ARIS meetings

every week.

- D. PPE Loan – should the NCBA apply if qualified – currently we do not because a 501(c)(6). No decision made.
- E. MBL reported on an incident outside the Association HQ after a shooting occurred outside and the EPD found a firearm in the bushes on the HQ property. EPD wanted to view security footage.

## **V. PROGRAMS**

Vice President Paul Harak, everything is cancelled pending the end of the shelter in place down orders. “I’ve done absolutely nothing given the state of affairs.” There some programs on the long-distance/virtual CLE and more discussions were held about that later in the meeting.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Foundation update by MBL, all checks refunding gift cards and donations went out since last meeting.
- B. Bench Bar Conf. Eyer reported on the BBC committee exploring options to continue or reschedule the event. The hotel where the event is scheduled is not cooperating. A cancellation would result in a \$33,230 liquidated damages provision. Hotel is not even willing to move the event to the following year without enforcing the penalty. A discussion was had about when/if to cancel and what will happen with the ability to hold the event and if people will attend even if allowed. Issue was tabled until the next meeting and if needed a vote to cancel and settle could be held by email prior to that meeting
- C. COVID-19 committee update by Santee. Update about the committee’s work and the weekly email for members. Committee work will continue for the foreseeable future. Additionally, the committee explored a distance CLE program for the Association. Santee discussed the process to become accredited for distance CLE and what the Association would need to do. This process would allow the Association to provide Zoom/distance CLEs. The committee has developed 5 courses to meet the accreditation process. MBL suggested the members develop and host as many of these distance learning lunch lectures to produce revenue for the association to help offset other losses of income.
- D. Farkas questioned about what if anything was being done with the funds previously earmarked to cover expenses for the Foundation event.


## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A. None

## **VIII ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by McGuire. Backenstoe asked questions about Spitale's cool Zoom background thereby keeping Clark and other members from dinner. Upon conclusion of this discussion, the motion was seconded by Spitale. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Jeremy Clark, Secretary