

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2011**

The meeting, held at the River Grille in Easton, was called to order by President Kerry Scott Freidl at 5:55 P.M.

**ATTENDEES (as marked):**

**Officers**

- X Kerry Scott Freidl, President
- X Victor E. Scomillio, President Elect
- X Stanley J. Margle, III, Vice-President
- X Christopher M. Reid, Treasurer
- X Abraham P. Kassis, Secretary
- X Jacqueline M. Taschner, Past President

**Board Members**

- Kevin F. Danyi
- X Michael P. Shay
- X Alyssa Lopiano Reilly
- X Samuel P. Murray
- X Jessica Frisch Moyer
- X Matthew C. Potts
- X Robert M. Donchez

**Executive Director**

- X Mary Beth Leeson

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Chris Reid to approve the Minutes from the December 10, 2010 Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Jackie Taschner and unanimously voted upon by the Board.

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

The Board was advised of several correspondences that were received since the last meeting:

-The administrative staff of the Bar Association sent a Thank You letter to the Bar for the raises and bonuses that were given at the end of the year.

-A correspondence was received from John G. Thomas of Northampton County Community College inquiring as to whether the Bar Association would once again be offering an award for the Paralegal Program, which has already been approved and budgeted for the upcoming year.

-Allen Jennings of the LLCAB sent a correspondence thanking the Bar Association for a \$500.00 gift.

-Victoria Coyle of the North Penn Legal Services sent a letter of appreciation for the \$500.00 donation made on behalf of the Association.

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

Chris Reid gave the Treasurer's Report to the Board. A motion to approve was made by Jackie Taschner and seconded by Stan Margle. The report was approved unanimously. The report is on permanent record at the Bar Association office.

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

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson presented the following:

- It was reported that Judge Moran's portrait has been completed and an inquiry will be made as to whether there will be a dedication ceremony.

-An inquiry had been made as to whether the Bar Association would be mailing a ballot to its members regarding the retention vote for Judge Edward Smith this year. The Board agreed that it would be an appropriate act, and tentatively scheduled the mailing of the ballots in May, 2011.

-The summer outing is scheduled for July 31, 2011, which will be one week before the Judges' Conference.

-The Judges' Reception has been scheduled for March 25, 2011. This year's 50 year honorees will be Attorneys Joe Bock and Daniel Mills.

-Upon an inquiry by Martye Cohen, the Board agreed to reduce the Judges' Reception attendance fee for young lawyers from \$75.00 to \$50.00 in the hopes of increasing the attendance of the event by the younger members of our bar. The Motion was made by President Freidl and seconded by Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly.

-The Conference of County Bar Leaders Conference will be held at State College on February 24-26 2011, and an invitation was made to all Board members to attend.

-It was reported that 23 teams have registered for the Mock Trial Program. Although the dates for the event are still being determined, it was noted that volunteers will be needed to serve as jurors.

-2011 is the next year scheduled for the photo directory. It was decided the pictures should be taken in the lawyer lounge of the Courthouse.

-Mary Beth Leeson reported that she will be attending the State Bar Executive Meeting, at which time the Conference County Law Journal will meet. It was suggested that Ed Shaughnessy be advised of this so that he may attend if possible.

-The issue was raised as to whether the bar should hire a young lawyer to do head-notes for the Northampton County Reporter. The question was tabled until the April Meeting.

## **V. PROGRAMS**

Stan Margle advised that Stephen Esch, who was scheduled to do the program at the January 20, 2011 Quarterly Bar Meeting, was no longer able to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. Discussion was held among the board members for an alternative program. Several suggestions were made which are now being looked into, and it was agreed that Mary Beth Leeson would notify everyone by either fax or e-mail once a new program was approved.

A report on the 2012 Bench Bar Conference was made by Victor Scomillio, who advised that Kelly Lewis and Michael Santanasto are the co-chairs of the committee. The conference is scheduled to be held in Philadelphia.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

It was reported that several members of the Board had a meeting with members of the Northampton County Bench to discuss the recent Motion that was passed limiting the Bar's

payment of law clerk bar dues to their first two years as clerks. As of the date of the meeting, letters had been sent to the clerks advising them of the limitation, which will take effect in 2012.

Jessica Moyer reported that the Long-Range Planning Committee met to discuss options of expanding the space of the County Bar Office on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. It was determined that the purchase of the building next door was not a feasible option because knocking it down would create a problem with the structure adjoined to that building. The Committee also looked at the possibility of expanding the building on the existing property, and is making inquiry into the feasibility and costs of doing so. Finally, there was a discussion whether the office would relocate altogether to a new address. The Committee will be seeking from a realtor to assess that option and appraise the current office. However, the Committee was concerned that a mortgage from the purchase another property creates a need on the Association to always have a revenue stream.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

An e-mail was received by George Heitzman inquiring into the Board's position on a pilot program that was initiated back in 2005 allowing for appellate oral arguments to be made over the telephone. Mr. Heitzman was considering making contact with Justice Stevens of the Superior Court to consider a continuation of this program and asked if the Bar Association would join with him in doing so. It was agreed that President Freidl would first contact the Superior Court Prothonotary to inquire as to the status of the initial program.

Jackie Taschner advised the Board that the limit of monetary damages for Magisterial District Court will increase from \$8,000.00 to \$12,000.00 on January 22, 2011.

President Freidl addressed the current Board, thanking them for their attendance and emphasized the importance of having the Board members do their utmost to attend every meeting as everyone's input will be essential to having a productive year for the Bar Association.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Jackie Taschner and seconded by Chris Reid, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



**ABRAHAM P. KASSIS**  
Secretary