

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING  
FEBRUARY 9, 2011**

The meeting, held at the Pomfret Club in Easton, was called to order by President Kerry Scott Freidl at 5:50 P.M.

**ATTENDEES (as marked):**

**Officers**

X Kerry Scott Freidl, President

X Victor E. Scmillio, President Elect

X Stanley J. Margle, III, Vice-President

X Christopher M. Reid, Treasurer

X Abraham P. Kassis, Secretary

\_\_\_ Jacqueline M. Taschner, Past President

**Board Members**

\_\_\_ Kevin F. Danyi

X Michael P. Shay

\_\_\_ Alyssa Lopiano Reilly

X Samuel P. Murray

X Jessica Frisch Moyer

\_\_\_ 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 January 5, 2011 Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Stan Margle 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:

- A thank you card was received from Dorothy Herster for the Memorial contribution made on behalf of her deceased husband, Andrew Herster, Esquire.
- A correspondence was received from Attorney Christopher Spadoni suggesting that the attendees of the Annual Judges' Reception who have been honored for 50 years of membership in the past be recognized by name during the program. The Board was receptive to this idea.
- A correspondence was received by Martye Cohen thanking the Board for its continuing effort and progress in working to make the Annual Judges' Reception more accessible to the younger lawyers.
- President Freidl brought to the attention of the Board a media announcement to promote further effort and involvement of Pennsylvania Bar Members in pro bono services.

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

Chris Reid gave the Treasurer's Report to the Board. A motion to approve was made by Victor Scomillio and seconded by Michael Shay. The report was approved unanimously. Mary Beth Leeson added that a new CD was opened at Sovereign Bank in the amount of \$50,000. The Treasurer's Report is on permanent record at the Bar Association office.

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

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson presented the following:

- The first round of the Mock Trial Competition held at the Courthouse was successfully completed. The next round is scheduled for February 22 and February 24, 2011. It was noted that volunteer jurors are still needed to help in this endeavor.

-It was noted that the Annual Boy Scout Breakfast will be held on May 6, 2011 at 7:30 a.m. at the Riverview Club. This year's notable honoree will be The Honorable Edward G. Smith.

-It was reported that the NCBA-sponsored trip to the Philadelphia Flyers game was a successful event, and a good time was had by all. The next organized event is the Broadway show *How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying* which is scheduled for April 9, 2011. Information on this trip has been released to the membership.

-A Young Lawyers Division Happy Hour was held jointly with Warren County's Association of Young Lawyers at Pearly Bakers on February 4, 2011. It was reported that approximately 40-50 people were in attendance and that the event was considered to be a successful venture with our neighboring comrades.

-Arrangements are still being made to organize plans for a 2011 Photo Directory for the Bar Association.

## **V. PROGRAMS**

Stan Margle advised that Stephen Esch was rescheduled to do the program for the March Quarterly Bar Meeting. Further information will be provided to the Membership regarding that matter.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

As noted at the prior meeting, a discussion regarding the limit of dues being paid for the county law clerks by the Bar Association was reopened by the Board. Concerns were raised regarding the manner in which the decision to limit the NCBA's payment of clerks' dues to two years was voted upon without a more thorough inquiry and opportunity for input from the bench. In light of this concern, there was discussion about rescinding the motion to limit the dues to two years and whether the vote would be voided at this time. The Motion to rescind the prior action was made by Sam Murray and seconded by Chris Reid. The Motion was approved by the Board. It is the present intent of the Board to engage in conversations with the Bench to discuss the concerns of some of the membership and reconcile them with the Bar Association's history and tradition of assisting the young clerks working for our Bench.

An update was provided by Mary Beth Lesson regarding the long-range planning committee's endeavor to review the options for expanding the space for the County Bar office on Ninth Street. At this time, it was agreed by the Board that the most viable option would be to expand the existing property. The long-range planning committee advised that it would cost approximately \$5,000.00 to take the next step in this process, which would be obtaining a report and drawings from the architect and engineers reviewing the expansion. The request for

payments of these expenses, which are within the budget for this year, was authorized by the Board.

A follow-up report was provided by President Freidl regarding an inquiry into the Superior Court Pilot Program for having Oral Arguments by telephone. President Freidl was advised by the Prothonotary of the Superior Court that the program utilizing telephone arguments was terminated. However, it was noted that Justice Stephens, who has expressed interest in utilizing current technology, may be open in considering video technology instead. President Freidl indicated that he may correspond with the Superior Court regarding the possibility of this option.

#### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

President Freidl announced that the PBA started a Pennsylvania Vote Smart website which serves to communicate relevant information for voters regarding upcoming elections. There was a question raised as to whether the NCBA would be willing to participate in this initiative by allowing the publication of any membership polls that are taken regarding judicial candidates. The matter was tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

Mary Beth Leeson addressed the Board regarding a matter raised by Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly concerning the attendance of non-lawyers at various CLE courses. It was agreed that paralegals would be welcome to attend our CLE courses provided that there is seating available after all lawyers have registered. It was further decided that only members of the Bar Association may attend committee meetings unless a non-member has been invited as a speaker.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Stan Margle and seconded by Victor Scomillio, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.P. Kassis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**ABRAHAM P. KASSIS**  
Secretary