

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING
March 2, 2011**

The meeting, held at the NCBA office in Easton, was called to order by President Kerry Scott Freidl at 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDEES (as marked):

Officers

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

Board Members

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

Executive Director

- Mary Beth Leeson

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Sam Murray to approve the Minutes from the February 9, 2011 Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Michael Shay. Motion to Approve Minutes passed. Jackie Taschner, Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly and Matthew Potts abstained from all votes.

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 the Honorable Jack A. Panella in appreciation of the NCBA's payment of membership dues.

-Attorney Michael Santanasto communicated his satisfaction and appreciation of being able to attend the CCBL Conference in State College recently with several members of the Board.

-Attorney George Kounoupis submitted a correspondence to advise the Board that he would be scheduling a luncheon meeting for the Employment Law Committee on March 31, 2011.

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 Victor Scomillio. There was further discussion regarding plans for two CD's that were maturing this month. Mary Beth Leeson was instructed to cash out the two CD's. A Finance Committee Meeting will be scheduled to review the current investment plan.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson presented the following:

-A reminder was made that the Judge's Reception is scheduled for March 25, 2011. Attendance by all members of the Association is encouraged.

-The NCBA office is continuing to sell tickets for the Iron Pigs game on April 21, 2011.

-The NCBA office is continuing to sell tickets for the bus trip to New York City for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which is scheduled for April 9, 2011.

-It was reported that the Mock Trial Competition was recently completed at the courthouse. The winning team was Marion Catholic, which will now be the representative of our zone at the next level of the competition.

-Information had been communicated to the Bar Association regarding the requirement of attorneys who are not in private practice, i.e. government employees, to pay PBA dues under Unit County regulations. Upon further discussion, it was suggested by the Board that a formal inquiry be made with the PBA to clarify who the type of attorneys who are obligated to pay dues in a Unit County such as Northampton.

-Mary Beth Leeson attended a seminar at the CCBL dealing with the insurance coverage for Bar Associations. After reviewing the material provided to her, she advised the Board that she would be reviewing the current coverage for the NCBA to make sure it adequately covers all of the programs that are currently in place. Chris Reid offered to assist in this endeavor.

-The Board was advised that the Volunteer Center presented an honorary plaque to the Young Lawyer Division for their noble and charitable efforts with the Holiday Hope Chest Program this past year. It was a well-deserved recognition for the hard work put in by the young lawyers who volunteered.

V. PROGRAMS

Victor Scomillio updated the Board regarding plans that are underway for the 2012 Bench Bar Conference in Philadelphia. It was communicated that Judge Van Antwerpen has been providing a great deal of insight and assistance during the early stages of planning.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

President Freidl reported on the CCBL that was held at State College at the end of February. President Freidl, along with Victor Scomillio, Michael Santanasto and Mary Beth Leeson, attended the conference and found it to be very informative and productive. A matter of importance to the Association, which was raised at the Conference Of County Legal Journals, was the topic of income that is received from the publication of notices in the legal journals. The Board was advised that there is currently a House Bill being considered which sets forth legislation that may adversely affect the mandates of notice publications in the journals. President Freidl reiterated concerns that the Bar Association's annual income will be significantly reduced if there is a legislative shift to change legal notices from print publications to the internet. President Freidl suggested that the Board consider the scheduling of meetings with our local legislators and the need to organize lobby efforts for our zone if this is a concern that the Association wishes to address. The Board agreed that this issue should be further

examined in the interest of the Bar Association and that an inquiry would be made into scheduling a meeting with some of our legislators to ascertain their position on this issue.

President Friedl proudly displayed a County Bar Recognition Award presented to Northampton County from the PBA for its efforts in the past year. Noted on the plaque was the 2010 Bench Bar Conference in Washington, D.C. and Supreme Court Ceremonial Admission, the 5K Run for Makeya Wheeler, and the Lehigh Valley Explorers Post.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

It was announced that Judge Roscioli would be attending the meeting in May as the judicial liaison from our Bench to discuss the issue of the payment of judicial clerk dues by the Bar Association. It was discussed and agreed that in addition to receiving input from our judges, it would be necessary to review the current by-laws to address any inconsistencies that may or may not exist with our current practice in action. Depending upon the ultimate decision of the Board, it was agreed that there would be the need to have the By-Law Committee address any such inconsistencies with the proper amendments.

President Freidl also requested that a review be made by the By-Law Committee to address issues that have been raised regarding the attendance requirement of the Board of Governors Membership.

President Freidl indicated that he would send a letter to the Pro Bono Committee to inquire into the Modest Means Program, which is designed to provide legal services at a substantially reduced rate to individuals who do not otherwise qualify for legal aid through North Penn Legal Services, but cannot afford an attorney at regular attorney fees. Attorney Gary Asteak gave a much appreciated presentation on the topic prior to the commencement of the March Board of Governors Meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Victor Scomillio and seconded by Jackie Taschner, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



ABRAHAM P. KASSIS
Secretary