

**MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING  
September 15, 2011**

The meeting, held at The Best Western in Bethlehem, was called to order by President Kerry Scott Freidl at 4:15 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 Chris Reid to approve the Minutes from the July 27, 2011 Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Victor Scomillio and unanimously voted on by the Board.

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

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

-A correspondence dated September 2, 2011, was received from The Honorable William F. Moran, formally advising the Board and membership of his last date of service to the Court on September 15, 2011. It was noted that Judge Moran has given our Bar Association 24 years of service and President Freidl commented on our appreciation of the job that he has done.

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

Christopher Reid read the Treasurer's Report to the Board. A motion to approve was made by Victor Scomillio and seconded by Robert Donchez. The report was approved unanimously.

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

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson presented the following:

-In lieu of having a law clerk reception, it was suggested and agreed upon that the clerks will be invited as guests to the Amicus Soiree, which is scheduled for October 21, 2011 at the Riverview Country Club.

- The Board was reminded that "The Right to Know Law Update" Seminar being presented by The Honorable Robert E. Simpson, Jr., The Honorable Renee Cohn Jubelirer, The Honorable Mary Hannah Leavitt, and Craig J. Staudenmaier, Esquire on September 30, 2011, is scheduled to proceed as a lunch lecture. It was noted that seating is still available for that seminar.

- It was noted that the Memorial Services are scheduled for September 27, 2011 prior to the Call of the Argument List in Courtroom #1 of the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas. All members were encouraged to attend this event.

- Invites for the Amicus Soiree were being prepared and it was anticipated that they would be mailed out in the following week. Again, this is occurring at Riverview Country Club and a golf outing has been organized to coincide with the event on October 21, 2011.

## **V. PROGRAMS**

Stan Margle advised that both Linda Shay Gardner and himself would be doing the program on the new custody regulations for the Quarterly Association Meeting scheduled for September 15, 2011. In addition, it was noted that Malcolm Gross has agreed to do a presentation on the John Brown trial for the Quarterly Meeting scheduled in November. Further information will be provided to the membership regarding that presentation.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Michael Shay, on behalf of the By-Law Committee, revisited the payment of dues by NCBA for county law clerks. Two proposals were presented to address the lack of instruction in the by-laws on paying clerk dues. The first option consisted of a proposed amendment, attached hereto, which would provide for the payment of law clerk dues during an individual's tenure as a clerk for any judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Northampton County. It was noted that a proposed amendment of the by-laws would require a two-thirds approval vote by the membership at any noticed meeting. The second option would be to have the Board of Governors vote on a resolution adopting the same changes.

During the course of discussion on this matter, it was noted that the language proposed by the Committee was acceptable in both explaining and addressing the issue that has arisen over the past meetings. A question was raised as to whether the dues, if voted to be paid by the Association, also included the dues for a membership in the PBA, which is currently the practice of our Association. It was decided that input from the bench would be warranted in this instance, and Michael Shay agreed to address the matter with President Judge McFadden.

The topic of the Mortgage Foreclosure Program was raised and Chris Reid was asked to provide the Board with an update as to the future of it and the funding for it. Chris Reid indicated that he will provide an update to the Board at the next meeting.

President Freidl reminded the Board that the Quarterly Membership Meeting, scheduled for September 15, 2011, had the topic of purchasing the commercial property at 402 5<sup>th</sup> Street on its agenda. President Freidl emphasized that he would simply present the facts to the membership with the help of Paul Harak and make it possible for a fully-informed vote to occur.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

A correspondence was received from Attorney Val Cammarine advising the Board of a training program through Child First PA Initiative to help employees of county offices in undertaking interviews with children on abuse cases. Attorney Cammarine inquired as to whether the Association would be willing to make a donation or a contribution to the help fund the sending of both the case worker and lawyer to this training seminar in the hope that it would

help with its abuse investigations. The training is scheduled for March, 2012. The Board agreed to discuss this matter further at the next meeting after additional information is received.

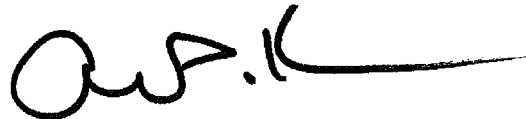
Attorney Vicki Coyle, on behalf of North Penn Legal Services, has asked the Board for a recommendation of an Association member who would be interested in joining the North Penn Board as of January, 2012, to help in its operation. The Board agreed to give some considerations to a referral and the matter was tabled for the next month to hear any suggestions.

An informal inquiry was made to Chris Reid for the Board to address the consideration of a waiver of dues for those members who are doing non-profit work. It was discussed that the by-laws provide for such an accommodation to be made, but a formal request would need to be made to the Board. Chris Reid agreed to communicate this to the interested party.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Stan Margle and seconded by Alyssa Lopiano-Reilly, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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

**ABRAHAM P. KASSIS**  
Secretary