

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

The meeting, held at The Vintage at Morgan Hill in Easton, was then called to order by President Kerry Scott Freidl at 5:40 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 September 15, 2011 Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Jessica Moyer. A discussion was held wherein Michael Shay asked that a correction be made to the Minutes regarding the summary of the By-Law Amendments. The suggestion was accepted and the correction was made. The Board unanimously voted to approve the Minutes.

II. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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

-A correspondence was received from The Honorable Jack A. Panella thanking the Association for the invitation to Senior Judge Michael Franciosa's retirement reception to be held on October 21, 2011.

-A correspondence was received from Attorney Michael Santanasto regarding the Holiday Hope Chest program, seeking an increase in the contribution from the Association. The reason for the request was that the volunteers were hoping to increase the number of gifts given from 300 to 500. The Motion was made by Jackie Taschner to increase the last given donation of \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00. The Motion was seconded by Jessica Moyer. The Board approved an increase to the YLD budget in the amount of \$999 and directed that \$501 from the Community Grant budget be allocated to YLD for the Holiday Hope project.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Christopher Reid read the Treasurer's Report to the Board. A motion to approve was made by Stan Margle and seconded by Jackie Taschner. The report was approved unanimously.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson presented the following:

The Board's opinion was sought as to the location of the next reception for the Reception of the Court in 2012. The members all agreed that it should remain at The Northampton County Country Club.

Discussion was held regarding the scheduling of another Iron Pigs event for the Bar Association in 2012. The Board agreed that the Association should make arrangements for another event to be sponsored by The Northampton County Bar Association only.

The question was raised as to whether the Board held any position with regard to allowing law firms to sponsor the next Bench Bar Conference, which is currently scheduled to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is noted that although companies providing legal services have been allowed to sponsor a portion of the conference, it has been the previous position that law office sponsorships were not accepted. It was agreed that the reason for this policy was to rule out any appearance of influence or favoritism on the part of the sponsoring law practice. However, the question was raised as to the specific details of the sponsorship being offered and whether the Bench would offer any position on the current policy. President Freidl offered to speak to President Judge McFadden regarding this issue and update the Board at the next meeting.

A small event will be held for The Honorable Michael Franciosa honoring his retirement on October 21, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. All members were requested to attend. It was agreed that the Bar Association would give Senior Judge Franciosa a gift in recognition of his service to the Bar and Bench. Gift suggestions were discussed.

The Board was asked if it would be appropriate to place the transcripts for the annual memorial services on the Bar Association website which is currently being revised/renovated. Everyone agreed that it was a good idea to do so once the website was up and running.

It was noted that the annual filing of IRS form 990 (Return Of Organization Exempt from Income Tax) requires a declaration of whether the financial statements were formally reviewed by the organizational body prior to or after the filing of the document. An inquiry was made of the Board as to whether it would best to review the financial statements before or after the filing and it was decided that the current policy of reviewing everything after the IRS filing should remain. Discussion was also held as to whether the Bar Association should implement a "whistle blower policy", which is also a question line in the tax form. After the discussion, the Board thought it would be in the best interest of the Bar Association to formally adopt such a policy and Mary Beth Leeson was asked to inquire into some examples of policy language filed by other counties.

A reminder was given that the Amicus Soire and Golf Outing are scheduled for October 21, 2011, at the Riverview County Club. Again, all members were encouraged to attend.

V. PROGRAMS

The Board was once again reminded that the next Quarterly Meeting scheduled would consist of a presentation from Malcolm Gross on the John Brown Trial. Stan Margle confirmed that this would be the last program to be scheduled for the calendar year.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Michael Shay updated the Board on the proposals given at the last meeting regarding modifications to the by-laws concerning the payment of dues of Northampton County Court of Common Pleas law clerks. No specific decision was made as the Board will wait to receive input from Judge Roscioli regarding options proposed by the By-Law Committee.

President Freidl reminded the Board that he was still awaiting additional information regarding the Child First PA Initiative Training Program and whether the Association could offer financial assistance to help fund the sending of a case worker and lawyer to the seminar. The matter was once again deferred until the next meeting so that more information could be provided regarding this topic.

President Freidl once again brought up the topic of Attorney Vicki Coyle's prior request for recommendation for an attorney to serve on the Board for the North Penn Legal Services. President Freidl updated the request to now include a request for the names of two attorneys. After some discussion, the Board identified two suitable candidates for consideration, John Rybak and Deborah DeNardo. President Freidl noted that he would contact these individuals for their position before suggesting them to North Penn.

Victor Scomillio provided the Board with an update on the Long Range Planning Committee and the continued interest to plan for alternate means of income should the Bar Association be unable to earn income from the publication of legal notices. Both Victor and Mary Beth Leeson met with a representative from the ABA to assist with the Long Range Planning. It was suggested that the first logical step would be to provide a survey to the members seeking suggestion and ideas on how to proceed. It was noted that this initial course of action would warrant a budget of approximately of \$2,500.00 to cover the associated costs. The Board was in agreement to proceed in this fashion.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

As a transition from the discussion regarding the Long Range Planning Committee, Mary Beth Leeson provided the Board with a draft copy of the 2012 budget. Specific items were reviewed and discussed and a motion was made by Jackie Taschner to approve the proposed budget with an amendment to increase the line budget for "Other Functions" by \$2,500.00 specifically to cover the costs of the survey, retreat and planning expenses for the Long Range Planning Committee. The Motion was seconded by Stan Margle and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Modest Means Program was discussed. President Freidl asked the Board to consider the implementation of a pilot program, which would be run through North Penn Legal Services setting forth a maximum fee to be charged to modest means-qualified clients. If so qualified, individuals would be able to hire attorneys who would be willing to participate in the program and charge only those amounts set forth on the fee schedule. The Board thought that it might be of interest to the Association and it was decided that Christopher Spadoni would be asked to speak at the November Quarterly Meeting and provide the membership with more information.

Christopher Reid updated the Board on the status of the CACLV program. He noted that the County has extended funding to continue the program to the end of the year.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion made by Chris Reid and seconded by Robert Donchez, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 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