

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

The meeting, held at Beck's Land and Sea in Wind Gap, was then called to order by President Kerry Scott Freidl at 6:05 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 Jackie Taschner to approve the Minutes from the October 5, 2011 Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Jessica Moyer. 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 recognizing Senior Judge Michael Franciosa's retirement and esteemed service to the bar by making a donation to the University of Maryland.

-A correspondence was received from President Judge F.P. Kimberly McFadden thanking the Association for holding the Amicus Soiree on October 21, 2011.

- A correspondence was received from The Honorable Paula A. Roscioli in reply to the October 6, 2011 letter sent from the Board to the Northampton County Bench to inform them of the two methods by which action can be taken to formalize the payment of judicial law clerk association dues. Judge Roscioli's correspondence communicated the preference of the Bench that the proposed By-Laws should be presented to the membership for a vote on the issue.

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

Due to the loss of electricity at the Northampton County Bar Association offices, and the consequential inability to access files from the computer, the reading of the Treasurer's Report was deferred and tabled until the next Board meeting.

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

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson presented the following:

As a result of the power loss to the NCBA offices from the recent storm, upcoming programs scheduled for the current week were moved from the office building to other accommodating locations.

The Board was updated on the planning efforts and arrangements for another Iron Pigs event for the membership scheduled on June 26, 2012.

It was reported that the new website for the Northampton County Bar Association is online with Phase I of the project completed. At this time, members can download registration forms online. Other phases are coming forthwith.

Mary Beth reminded the Board that the budget discussions from the last meeting failed to include reference to the \$18,000 - \$20,000 estimate for roof repair prices to be included in the capital line item.

The planned broadcast fax for Election Day was postponed due to power loss at the offices.

The Board was advised that Stephanie will be retiring soon from the office after many years of service for the Association. It was unanimously agreed that a retirement gift should be given to her as an expression of gratitude for her work.

## **V. PROGRAMS**

The Board was reminded once again by Stan Margle that the presentation on the John Brown Trial by Malcolm Gross was moving ahead as planned for the next Quarterly Meeting in November.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Discussion was held once again regarding the matter of the By-Laws/Resolution proposed to address the issue of payment of law clerk dues by the Association. As indicated earlier, the Bench expressed its preference to proceed with the By-Law vote as opposed to having the Board vote on the resolution. In light of that input, it was decided that the new suggested Bylaw will be mailed to the Association members prior to a vote at the November Quarterly meeting.

A discussion was then held as to whether the Board should formally vote its position on the law clerk dues issue in the event that it is asked for at the meeting. Since the membership would be voting at that meeting, it was agreed that the formal vote by the Board would be unnecessary. However, President Freidl indicated that he would summarize the various arguments that have been presented on this matter during the course of its consideration by the Board. It was agreed that an invitation would be made to the Northampton County Bench to attend and address the membership on this matter if need be.

A discussion then ensued as to whether the vote should be done by a formal ballot or by simply having a show of hands upon a call at the Quarterly meeting. A question arose as to whether the Board had the authority to direct the vote in that manner, and there was some uncertainty to that point. By a majority of a show of hands, the Board agreed to not mandate it as a written vote.

An update was given by President Freidl on the First Child Initiative request for financial assistance. Upon further inquiry, it was determined that the program would be receiving sufficient funding and was no longer in need of any assistance from the Association.

An update was given on the Long Range Planning Committee's efforts to work to develop future means of income for the Bar Association. It was announced that officers would be meeting sometime during the first week of December to review and approve a survey that will be sent to the membership for ideas and comments. The goal would be to have the survey mailed to the membership in January, 2012. During the course of these discussions, the idea was given that perhaps some prizes should be offered to entice members to participate in the survey.

It was also announced that the Long-Range Planning Committee was continuing to look into alternative property locations for the Bar Association in light of the vote at the last quarterly meeting rejecting the bid to purchase the West End property in Easton.

The Federal Rules Committee update was given to the Board by President Freidl. It was noted that Judge Van Antwerpen wanted some input from the Association as to how we could assist in keeping a federal court located in Easton. The Chairman of the Federal Rules Committee, Andrew Shaw, was approached on this issue, and it was noted that he has used local newspapers to publically communicate the importance of keeping the federal court in Easton. It was agreed that the Board would continue to monitor this issue and work in the furtherance of it.

Mary Beth Leeson informed the Board that Attorney Spadoni would be attending the next quarterly meeting to discuss the Modest Means Program and answer questions about the implementation of a pilot program through North Penn Legal Services.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business reported.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion made by Stan Margle and seconded by Jackie Taschner, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



**ABRAHAM P. KASSIS**  
Secretary