MINUTES OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING December 7, 2011

The meeting, held at The Cafe in Bethlehem, was then called to order by President Kerry Scott Freidl at 6:00 P.M.

ATTENDEES (as marked): **Officers Kerry Scott Freidl, President** X Victor E. Scomillio, President Elect X Stanley J. Margle, III, Vice-President <u>X</u> Christopher M. Reid, Treasurer <u>X</u> Abraham P. Kassis, Secretary <u>X</u> _X_ Jacqueline M. Taschner, Past President **Board Members** Kevin F. Danyi Michael P. Shay _X_ <u>X</u> Alyssa Lopiano Reilly Samuel P. Murray <u>X</u> X_{-} Jessica Frisch Moyer \mathbf{X} Matthew C. Potts Robert M. Donchez **Executive Director**

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Mary Beth Leeson

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Sam Murray to approve the Minutes from the November 2, 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:

- -Bruce Davis submitted a correspondence applauding President Friedl's letter and the NCBA staff for an outstanding job done throughout the year.
- -A correspondence was received from Stephanie Pasquel formally advising the Board that she would be resigning her position from the Bar Association office after 10 years of employment. President Freidl took the opportunity to advise the Board members that a parting gift had been purchased for her and a card was presented for all Board members present to sign and express their good wishes for her.
- A correspondence was received from The Honorable Michael Franciosa thanking the Northampton County Bar Association for its donation to the University of Maryland on his behalf in honor of his retirement from the Bench.
- -An information letter was received by President Freidl advising and reminding the Association of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program which satisfies student loans for all full-time public service employees who hold such positions for ten years. It was noted that this information should be disseminated among the Association so that they could be aware of the opportunity.
- -A correspondence was received from the President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, Barry Simpson, thanking the Bar Association for the 2011 donation of \$2,500.00 to the PA Bar PACT.
- -A correspondence was received by the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley seeking a donation from the Bar Association for the upcoming year.

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 Jessica Moyer. The report was approved unanimously.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Mary Beth Leeson presented the following:

- -A new employee, Patti Grober, was hired to replace Stephanie Pasquel who is retiring from the Bar Association offices after 10 years. She will be beginning on December 13, 2011, and will train with Stephanie for a two week period before taking over her position in full.
- -A correspondence was received from the Pennsylvania Bar Association advising that the legislative director, Nevin Mindlin, was no longer employed in that capacity.
- -A communication was received from Vicki Coyle advising the Board that North Penn Legal Services would be seeking CLE accreditation to help keep members of its staff current with their CLE requirements. She specifically noted that this was not being sought to conflict with NCBA CLE classes.
- -It was also reported that Gary Asteak and John Rybak agreed to serve as members of the North Penn Legal Services Board.
- -The Holiday Hope Chest Program was completed as planned and it was noted that 312 boxes were created and wrapped for gifts for the underprivileged children of the Lehigh Valley. This number represented a 35% increase over last year.
- -It was reported that the upcoming Mock Trial Program in 2012 has received confirmations of participation from 8 county schools as of this date.
- -A reminder was made that the Reception for the Court would be held on March 30, 2012 at the Northampton County Club. All members would be encouraged to attend.
- -A conference call with the Board of Governors and a representative for ABA to discuss goals for the Long-Range Committee is scheduled for December 19, 2011. More details will be provided as to exact time and location.

V. <u>PROGRAMS</u>

The Board took the time to properly acknowledge Stan Margle for the efforts that he has put forth in the planning of the programs for the past calendar year. A stern warning was given to

Christopher Reid as to making the effort to fill the shoes that he would be attempting to wear. Chris Reid then took the opportunity to advise the Board that the programs for all annual and quarterly meetings have already been arranged and prepared.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Victor Scomillio raised the issue of whether the Board needed to once again broadcast the information regarding the upcoming By-Laws vote at the Annual Meeting in January. As noted, the last communication regarding the By-Laws vote was to attempt to have it held at the last Quarterly Meeting in November. It was agreed that a new notice should be provided for the January 19, 2012 Annual Meeting date.

A discussion was then held regarding the fact that the PBA allows for the waiver of dues of full-time publically employed attorneys in unit counties. The point was made that this particular codicil might be relevant to the issue of the payment of law clerk dues insomuch that it could reduce the expenses incurred by the Bar Association if the judicial clerks were not concerned with being members of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. It was agreed that this information needed to be communicated to all members of the Bar Association and that it would be placed on upcoming notices for dues.

VII. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

Victor Scomillio reported on his attendance at a PBA dinner for current and incoming presidents of the Zone 2 counties within the Commonwealth. He noted that it was an informative event and notes that he did express a concern that the Pennsylvania Bar Association needed to focus on more unifying topics for all attorneys.

A discussion was held regarding the continuation of group trips that have been organized by the Northampton County Bar Association for our members and our plans to continue with them. Michael Shay noted that in the past these trips have been very successful by the fact that they have been well organized and enjoyable. However, he noted that participation did not appear to be as high as would have been hoped, and that an attempt should be made to consider if there are other types of trips that the members would be more inclined to participate in.

With Mary Beth Leeson leaving the room for this topic, the Board reviewed the current recommendations from the Personnel Committee regarding salaries and bonuses for the upcoming year of the administrative staff at the Northampton County Bar Association office. Upon reviewing it, a motion was made by Chris Reid to accept the recommendations as set forth in the correspondence with the additional motion to provide a monetary bonus to Stephanie Pasquel for her last year of employment. The motion was seconded by Jackie Taschner and unanimously approved.

VIII. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Upon motion made by Sam Murray and seconded by Jackie Taschner, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M. Prior to the adjournment, incoming President Victor Scomillio said a few words regarding the Board's appreciation of President Kerry Freidl's service to the Bar Association during the 2011 year. A small token of appreciation was given to President Freidl on behalf of the Bar Association, who then expressed his gratitude and appreciation. A good time was had by all.

Respectfully submitted,

ABRAHAM P. KASSIS

Secretary