

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
February 16, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Board Chair Kevin Mincey.

The minutes from the Board retreat on January 12, 2017 and the Board meeting on January 18, 2017 were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Regina Foley presented the Treasurer's Report for year end 2016 and for the month of January 2017.

Revenue in 2016 exceeded expectations by \$83,095, thanks to additional dues revenue beyond the amount budgeted and unexpected additional revenue from the Lawyer Information & Referral Service (LRIS). Those gains were offset by expenses which exceeded the association's budget by \$221,587, primarily attributable to employee benefits and cost saving measures. Overall, however, the association finished the year with a loss of only \$19,186 before realized and unrealized gains. Taking those gains into account, the association ended the year with a profit of \$74,065. Treasurer Foley characterized the outcome as very successful, given that a loss of \$323,868 had been budgeted for the year.

As of the end of January, monthly revenues received were \$22,252 less than had been budgeted for the month. Despite higher than expected revenues from dues collections (ahead by \$27,522), the monthly revenues were reduced by lower than expected lawyer referral fees from LRIS and other negative variances indicated in the monthly statement of operations. Expenses were lower than had been budgeted, by \$2,664. The variances in revenues and expenses yielded a net negative variance of \$19,688 behind for the month.

A motion to approve the treasurer's report was moved, seconded and carried.

Family Section Chair Richard B. Bost presented a resolution supporting proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure Governing Parent Coordination. Julia Swain spoke in favor of the resolution. The resolution passed unanimously and will be submitted to the Supreme Court Rules Committee in support of the rules being passed.

Chancellor Gross introduced Sara Woods, outgoing executive director of Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent, who is leaving the organization to lead Philadelphia Futures. Chancellor Gross nominated Kevin Chu, Michael Costigan, Patricia Cramer, Candace Embry, Katelyn Gillece, David Jones, Richard Scheff and Bob Scott to the VIP Board. The nominations were approved unanimously.

Chancellor Gross thanked Sara Woods for her tremendous contribution to VIP. Woods addressed the board, summarizing the history of VIP and its accomplishments. A search is underway for a new executive director. In the meantime, Elaine Petrossian was named interim executive director. Pro Bono Representative Louis Rulli acknowledged Wood's tremendous impact on VIP and the community at large, and called her a "profile in courage."

American Bar Association Delegates Butler Buchanan and Kathleen Wilkinson addressed the board regarding recent actions taken at the ABA's February 6th House of Delegates meeting in conjunction with the ABA's midyear meeting in Miami, Florida. A written summary of the matters addressed by the House of Delegates was distributed to members of the board.

Young Lawyers Division chair Matthew Olesh reported on upcoming YLD activities, including its bowling fundraiser on April 27, 2017. Sponsors are encouraged to support the event.

Assistant Secretary Jennifer S. Coatsworth then addressed the board in her capacity as the bar association's representative on the First Judicial District's Jury Participation Initiative. There are four working groups brainstorming on how to increase jury participation: outreach and education, jury management, perspectives (cultural barriers) and a hardship and inconvenience working group. Meetings are expected to continue in the coming months.

Association executive director Mark Tarasiewicz provided an update on membership. Almost \$800,000 in dues for 2017 has been collected thus far, which is approximately 43% of the \$1.84 million dues budget. Meetings have been scheduled with law firm managing partners to discuss increased membership at those firms. The association's website now includes a scroll of honor for firms that have a high percentage of participation, and there is a corresponding banner on the Bar Reporter Online. A special offer now allows public sector members to renew their membership at a discounted rate. Maria Bermudez and Nicholas S. Kamau are new Government & Public Service Lawyers Committee co-chairs.

Chancellor Gross advised the board as to the activities of the Pension Committee, and nominated Jessica R. Hilburn-Holmes of the Philadelphia Bar Foundation and Andrew Sather of Jenkins Law Library as new members of the committee. Other members of the committee include Jonathan Clarke (co-chair), David Jones (co-chair), Brian Dougherty (vice chair), three chancellors and board chair, Paul Heintz, Michael Hadlick, Matthew Whitehorn, Susan Knight, Amy Seefeld (on behalf of the bar association staff), and June Janda, Ida Weingram and Regina Smith on behalf of the Jenkins Law Library staff. BPU Investments and Paul Brahim advise the committee. Susan Knight reported that the committee's activities are fully covered under the bar association's errors and omissions insurance coverage. As records of committee membership have been incomplete, there was a motion to formally approve the entire slate of members for future reference. The motion passed, and the list of members was approved unanimously.

Chancellor Gross then delivered her announcements. The ABA is seeking feedback from anyone who has had experience with Supreme Court nominee Judge Neil Gorsuch. Chancellor Gross summarized plans for the bar association's upcoming events to address issues raised by President Trump's executive order with respect to immigration and refugees. The bar association's quarterly meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at the Loew's Hotel. A chancellor's forum will be held on April 4, 2017 to hear from candidates for the position of Philadelphia District Attorney. A chancellor's forum has been scheduled for April 25, 2017 featuring all of the new law school deans in the Philadelphia region. Chancellor Gross

also acknowledged the one-year anniversary of the bar association's CLE programming, and thanked Tara Phoenix for her hard work over the past year.

Board Chair Kevin Mincey announced that Treasurer Regina Foley will be among several honorees at the upcoming annual fundraiser for the Support Center for Child Advocates. Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz will be receiving an award from the Conference of County Bar Leaders next week.

There being no further public business, the Board went into executive session at approximately 5:22 p.m., and adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc J. Zucker
Secretary

**Board of Governors
Meeting – February 16, 2017
Attendance**

Voting Members

Present:

Deborah R. Gross
Mary F. Platt
Rochelle M. Fedullo
Marc Zucker
Jennifer S. Coatsworth
Regina M. Foley
Natalie Klyashtorny
Kevin Mincey
Katayun Jaffari
Kathleen Kirkpatrick
Ira Lefton
Shabrei Parker
Julia Swain
Maureen Farrell

James Funt
Neil Maskeri
Maureen Olives
Amber Racine
Jennifer Seme
Gaetan J. Alfano
Lauren McKenna
Vincent Barbera
Kevin Harden
Richard Bost
Timothy Holman
Eileen Quigley
David Shapiro
Hon. Tina Maria Rago

Absent:

Jeffrey Rosenthal
Myisha Lacey-Tilson
Edward Beitz
Angela Giampolo
Wendy C. Hess

Teresa Rodriguez
Adam Taylor
Amber Racine
Sarah Gelb
Eli Segal

On Phone:

Hon. Sandra Moss (Ret.)
Erin Siciliano

Matthew Olesh

Non-Voting Members

Present:

Lawrence Beaser
Mark Tarasiewicz
Louis Rulli
Sophia Lee

Harry Reichner
Butler Buchanan
Kathleen Wilkinson
Jessica Sharp

Absent:

Albert S. Dandridge, III
Thomas Brophy
Jennifer Snyder
Mary Kate Martin
Patricia Infanti

