

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
September 28, 2017**

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

A motion to approve the [minutes of the June 22, 2017 meeting](#) carried unanimously.

Treasurer Regina Foley delivered the Treasurer's Report through May 2017. As of the end of August, the Association is in the red by \$32,046. Revenues were \$92,514 less than had been budgeted, only partially offset by expenses that were \$60,468 less than had been anticipated. Cost cutting measures are continuing. A motion to approve the treasurer's report carried unanimously.

Judge Richard Klein (Ret.) delivered remarks in support of the Joint State Government Commission Recommendation for a Statewide Office of Dispute Resolution. The commission was formed in 2005. The goal of a statewide office of dispute resolution would be to regulate pre-dispute arbitration clauses, promote uniformity among courts in their approach to arbitration, support the advancement of alternate dispute resolution and provide appropriate education and training. The Civil Litigation Section and Family Law Section both had approved the proposed resolution supporting the creation of the statewide office of dispute resolution. A motion to approve the [resolution](#) as amended carried with only one vote against, one abstention, and the remaining votes in favor.

Director of Public and Legal Services Charles Klitsch addressed the status of the Lawyer Information & Referral Service (LRIS). The program offers an important access point for consumers and low-income individuals and an important referral source for attorneys. It has been in effect for 60 years and has been one of the association's leading sources of revenue. Revenues are running lower than expected due in part to competition from internet advertising, online services such as Avvo and LegalMatch, and other competitors. The program still uses software from 2001 and is seeking to upgrade it to provide real-time referrals online. The association is coordinating the purchase of this software with the New York City, Brooklyn and San Francisco bar associations, through the joint hiring of a consultant at a cost to our association of less than \$1,000. The program also is looking into the updating of its [website](#), as well as community outreach, advertising on social media and publicity by the federal courts. Mr. Klitsch encouraged the Board to publicize the program, as lawyers are the leading source of referrals to LRIS. Board member Wendy Hess suggested that PennDOT and churches be enlisted to help. Board member Sophia Lee suggested that the DIPC get involved in the effort. Board member Julia Swain suggested that Philadelphia Family Court be given brochures to distribute in its help center.

Assistant Secretary Jennifer Coatsworth reminded Board members of the importance of completing their diversity checklist and pro bono certification in accordance with Section 216 of the association bylaws.

Treasurer Regina Foley provided an informational report, in her capacity as chair of the finance and audit committee, on recent actions by the committee. In consultation with investment advisor Peter Rohr, the committee met on September 19, 2017 and authorized the sale of the association's investment in the SPY fund and transfer of those funds to the association's operating account. The association has benefited from these investments in a high performing market, and Mr. Rohr recommended that this was a good time to sell, at a 162% profit. Only profits, rather than capital investments, are being utilized.

Board member Sophia Lee, who is serving this year as Bench Bar Conference Co-Chair, reported to the Board on the upcoming 2017 Bench Bar Conference, scheduled for October 13-14, 2017 at the Borgata in Atlantic City. Eighty-one judges are scheduled to attend, and the list of speakers is an impressive one.

Chancellor Gross then introduced a [resolution](#) to eliminate the Chancellor's stipend, as a cost-cutting measure. A motion to approve the resolution carried unanimously.

Chancellor Gross nominated Alex Giacobetti to serve once again as Judge of Elections. A motion to approve the nomination carried unanimously.

Chancellor Deborah R. Gross led a discussion of the Board's policy with respect to "In Memoriam" resolutions for distinguished members of the association. She noted the recent passing of former chancellors Harold Cramer and Peter Hearn, as well as former Judicial Commission Chair Harold Datz, and circulated In Memoriam acknowledgements with respect to each.

Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz provided a membership update. With 8 weeks to go in the membership renewal period, \$1.8 million or 98% of the membership dues budget has been collected. The goal is to exceed that budget. Last year's collections were higher at this point. The annual October offer has been extended to those who chose not to renew last year, and mailings have been sent out. Mr. Tarasiewicz thanked Hilary Ladov and Stephanie Steckler for their efforts on Young Lawyers Division law school outreach, generating 200 new members. He thanked Chancellor Elect Mary Platt, Board members Kevin Harden and Jamie Funt and Manager of Member Services Andrea Morris-Tracey for recent efforts to promote bar membership at a September 21st meeting of first year attorneys at the Defender's Association. As a result of outreach by board members to those who had not yet renewed, the Board member with the most renewals was Jennifer Seme. Among sections and divisions, the Young Lawyers Division led in the number of renewals, with the Business Law Section in second place. The Family Law Section has the highest percentage of renewals. Maureen Farrell of the Solo & Small Firm Committee won the summer challenge for recruiting the most non-members.

Chancellor Gross updated the board on recent successful events as well as coordination among the Allegheny Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association and the Philadelphia Bar Association. Chancellor Gross thanked Jennifer Snyder for her service on the Board and welcomed new member Niki Ingram. Chancellor Gross applauded the recent opinion of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in [William Penn School District et al. v. Pa. Dept. of Education, et al.](#) authored by Justice David Wecht, reviving a lawsuit challenging school funding.

Chair Mincey reminded the Board to contribute to the Barristers' Association annual Turkey Drive, and encouraged members to run in the upcoming bar association election.

Secretary Zucker conveyed the Board's condolences to Vice Chancellor Shelli Fedullo on the recent passing of her mother.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc J. Zucker
Secretary

**Board of Governors
Meeting – September 28, 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
Ira Lefton
Jeffrey Rosenthal
Julia Swain

Maureen Farrell
James Funt
Wendy C. Hess
Hon. Sandra Moss (Ret.)
Amber Racine
Jennifer Seme
Lauren McKenna
Matthew Olesh
Eli Segal
Erin Siciliano
Hon. Tina Maria Rago

Present on the Phone:

Richard Bost

Absent:

Kathleen Kirkpatrick
Shabrei Parker
Myisha Lacey-Tilson
Edward Beitz

Angela Giampolo
Teresa Rodriguez
Adam Taylor
Neil Maskeri

Maureen Olives
Susan Lin
Gaetan J. Alfano
Vincent Barbera
Sarah Gelb

Kevin Harden
Timothy Holman
Eileen Quigley
David Shapiro

Non-Voting Members

Present:

Lawrence Beaser
Mark Tarasiewicz
Louis Rulli
Sophia Lee
Jennifer Snyder

Mary Kate Martin
Harry Reichner
Butler Buchanan
Wesley R. Payne
Jessica Sharp

Absent:

Albert S. Dandridge, III
Butler Buchanan
Jessica Sharp
Niki Ingram
Thomas Brophy

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Butler Buchanan
Jessica Sharp
Niki Ingram
Thomas Brophy