The meeting was called to order at 3:59 p.m. by Vice Chair Amber Racine.

A motion to approve the minutes of the Board’s December 12, 2017 and January 19, 2018 meetings carried unanimously.

Treasurer Regina Foley presented the preliminary Treasurer’s Report for the period ending December 31, 2017 and the Treasurer’s Report for the period ending January 31, 2018. The bar association’s net assets as of December 31st were in the black at $191,161, with a gain on investments of $339,202 to offset the operating deficit. The net loss from operations for the year was $148,041, less than had been projected. A motion to approve the latter report carried unanimously.

Chancellor Platt presented an in memoriam resolution in memory of the Honorable Thomas N. O’Neill, Jr., highly respected federal district judge and former chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, who passed away on January 16, 2018. Judge O’Neill was a mentor to Chancellor Platt when both of them practiced at the Montgomery McCracken law firm. Judge O’Neill’s wife, Jeanne and daughter Ellen O’Neill Deitrich, as well as Judge O’Neill’s courtroom deputy/secretary, Deborah Owens, and his permanent law clerk, Meredith DuBarry Huston, were present for the reading of the resolution. A motion to approve the resolution carried unanimously.

Former chancellor Kathleen Wilkinson, in her capacity as ABA Alternate Delegate, delivered a report on the 2018 ABA Midyear Meeting in Vancouver. The ABA is planning to streamline its multi-tiered dues structure and include two section memberships with base dues. Resolutions addressed included a resolution to encourage law firms to give women lawyers more opportunities for courtroom experience, advancing well-being in the legal profession, discouraging the use of solitary confinement for detainees, encouraging the extension of Batson challenges to bar peremptory challenges of jurors on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, urging that the death penalty not be imposed upon minors, and providing court-appointed counsel for all proceedings that may result in a loss of liberty, in order to reach “quasi-criminal” matters, akin to Civil Gideon.

Andrew Christy, Independence Foundation Intern for the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, presented a resolution regarding proposed rule changes with respect to incarceration of the indigent for failure to pay in summary cases. Following debate, a motion to approve the resolution carried with a majority voting in favor, three Board members opposing the resolution and one abstention.

Molly Tack-Hooper, immediate past chair of the Public Interest Section, presented a resolution to amend the Public Interest Section’s bylaws. A motion to approve the resolution carried unanimously.
Legislative Counsel Anthony Crisci delivered a report on legislative matters at the state level. Key issues currently before the state legislature include property tax reform and merit selection bills.

Chancellor Platt nominated Priscilla Jimenez whose appointment was announced at the Board retreat but not voted upon. Chancellor Platt also nominated Kenneth Murphy to a four-year term on the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention, Lauren McKenna as Chair of the Campaign for Qualified Judges, and Valentine Brown, Renee Garcia, Amber Racine, Sara Richman and Dina Schlossberg to the Philadelphia Legal Assistance Board. Motions to approve all the nominations carried unanimously.

Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz delivered a report on membership. Dues revenue of $807,095 has been collected. Widener Law School has agreed to pay for its students to join the bar association. He thanked Chancellor-elect Rochelle Fedullo and Andrea Morris-Tracey for their work on this project. The Bar is inviting additional firms to join the Large Firm Management Committee. Vendor Court Call agreed to provide discounted services to our members. Sponsorships with MyCase and other vendors are being negotiated. The bar association sponsored a successful CLE event at the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline Institute of Trial Advocacy in conjunction with all area law schools. He thanked Tara Phoenix for her efforts in planning this event and developing a partnership with area law schools.

Chancellor Platt announced the creation of a strategic vision task force and working group to address such goals as financial sustainability, technology and modernization, membership retention and recruitment, relevance and member engagement, community service and such other goals as the task force may identify. She congratulated former chancellor Deborah Gross on receiving the Excellence Award of the National Conference of Bar Foundations (NCBF), presented at the NCBF annual meeting held in conjunction with the American Bar Association’s midyear meeting in Vancouver. The YLD held a successful expungement clinic and has launched a mentoring program with the Senior Lawyers Committee. Chancellor Platt reviewed numerous projects underway, including the creation of a separate Midsize Law Firm Management Committee and a Wellness Committee, immigration clinics, revisions to the Bar’s personnel handbook being drafted by the HR Committee, a U.S. Supreme Court induction ceremony and many others. Chancellor Platt also congratulated Superior Court Judge Anne Lazarus who will be receiving the Anne X. Alpern Award at the Pennsylvania Bar Association’s annual meeting on May 9th.

There being no further business, the Board went into executive session at 5 p.m. and adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc J. Zucker
Secretary
Board of Governors Attendance
February 15, 2018

Voting members present (by phone or in person):
Mary Platt
Rochelle Fedullo
Hon. A. Michael Snyder (Ret.)
Marc Zucker
Jennifer Coatsworth
Regina Foley
Matthew Olesh
Amber Racine
Maureen Farrell
James Funt
Adam Taylor
Hon. Sandra Mazer Moss (Ret.)
Maureen Olives
Jennifer Seme
Meghan Claiborne
Francesca Iacovangelo
Nicholas Kamau
Alisha Lubin
Michael van der Veen
Dominique Ward
Kevin Mincey
Vincent Barbera
Michaela Tassinari
Eric Siegel
James Berardinelli
Ann Funge
Timothy Holman
Molly Tack-Hooper
David Shapiro
Hon. Tina Rago

Absent:
Katayun Jaffari
Edward Beitz
Angela Giampolo
Wendy Hess
Teresa Rodriguez
Susan Lin
Neil Maskeri
Benjamin Barnett
Deborah Gross

Non-voting members present:
Mark Tarasiewicz
Priscilla Jimenez
Harry Reichner
Abraham Reich
Wesley Payne

Absent:
Lawrence Beaser
Gaetan Alfano
Thomas Brophy
Niki Ingram
Mary-Kate Martin
Patricia Infanti
Robyn Addis
Butler Buchanan