

**Philadelphia Bar Association  
Board of Governors Meeting  
January 18, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Board Chair Kevin Mincey.

The [minutes](#) from the Board meeting on December 15, 2016 were approved, after a minor correction to the attendance list. (Pro Bono Chair Louis Rulli, who had been present at that meeting, mistakenly was listed as both present and absent.)

Treasurer Regina Foley presented the Treasurer's Report and explained that it was incomplete, as final figures for calendar year 2016 had not yet been generated. As a result, no motion was made to approve the report. Dues revenue for the year totaled \$1,922,805, \$47,805 more than had been anticipated in the budget. Membership increased in 2016 by 455 people, the majority of whom were first year attorneys and law students who hopefully will become dues paying members in future years. She thanked the staff for its help in this regard. [LRIS](#) revenue was \$620,486, \$60,476 more than had been anticipated, as a result of percentage fees obtained in 2016.

Chancellor Gross reminded board members to review a spreadsheet of law firms to contact regarding USI, a primary sponsor of the bar association, in order to facilitate meetings between USI and those firms. Board members are encouraged to volunteer to contact law firms that have not already been assigned to a particular board member on the spreadsheet.

USI Affinity Vice President Shelly Lawson presented a report of USI's products, services and marketing. Chancellor Gross emphasized that the bar association is not "selling" USI's products, but rather opening the door for discussion between USI and law firms.

Bar Association Director of Communications and Marketing Meredith Z. Avakian-Hardaway made a presentation regarding appropriate "netiquette" for listserves. She encouraged bar leadership to utilize those listserves in order to promote activities, encourage attendance at events and communicate important information. She circulated a list of suggestions for increasing the effectiveness of a listserve posting (catchy subject line, short and concise content, etc.) and reviewed each suggestion. She complimented the Workers' Compensation Section for their effective use of listserves and social media.

Honorable Tina Maria Rago, Board liaison to the Workers' Compensation Section, spoke about the section's use of word-of-mouth, paper communication (through courtroom postings, bulletin boards and handouts) and technology (Twitter, listserves, Snapchat, blogs, and the section [webpage](#), including frequent posting of event photos) to maximize the section's outreach and generate enthusiasm.

Bar Association Director of Public and Legal Services Charles J. Klitsch gave an update on the association's [Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention](#). Candidates are running for ten open seats on the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County and four seats on the Municipal Court. A large number of candidates is anticipated, and over 60 investigators have volunteered. Their meetings will begin on January 27 and continue every Friday thereafter until the end of April or beginning of May. The Commission's impact is not limited to educating voters; it also has been successful in causing those candidates who are not recommended to withdraw from judicial races. The Philadelphia Inquirer now relies on the bar association's investigations and ratings for their endorsement of candidates. The Commission no longer will defer its release of recommendations until all candidates have been vetted; the release will be immediate in order to encourage candidates to utilize those recommendations early on. In addition to candidates for the First Judicial District, the Commission will be rating appellate candidates who are based in Philadelphia. Publicizing of the recommendations will increase through more extensive use of social media and "boots on the ground." Chancellor Gross encouraged Board members to solicit colleagues to serve as investigators. Contact Charlie Klitsch, commission chair Eric Weitz or Chancellor Gross if you or others whom you know are interested in serving. Investigators need not reside in Philadelphia.

Bar Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz presented a report on bar membership. Dues revenue for 2017 received in December was approximately \$186,000, an increase of approximately \$87,000 for the same period last year. As of the date of the meeting, \$488,296 in 2017 dues revenue had been collected, as compared to \$454,703 last year, an increase of approximately \$33,000. He thanked bar association Manager of Member Services Andrea Morris for her hard work and encouraged all members to pay their dues well in advance of the March 31 deadline.

Chancellor Gross delivered announcements and circulated a "timeline" handout setting forth upcoming meetings and events of Board interest.

Chair Mincey thanked board members for attending this year's Barristers' Association Martin Luther King Breakfast, at which Chair Mincey received an award. He reminded the Board of the Barristers' Association's scholarship gala scheduled for May 20.

There being no further public business, all members of the Bar staff were excused. The Board went into executive session at 4:59 p.m., and adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marc J. Zucker  
Secretary

**Board of Governors**  
**Meeting – January 18, 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  
Shabrei Parker  
Maureen Farrell  
James Funt

Adam Taylor  
Hon. Sandra Moss (Ret.)  
Maureen Olives  
Amber Racine  
Jennifer Seme  
Gaetan J. Alfano  
Matthew Olesh  
Sarah Gelb  
Kevin Harden  
Richard Bost  
Eli Segal  
Hon. Tina M. Rago

**Absent:**

Kathleen Kirkpatrick  
Jeffrey Rosenthal  
Julia Swain  
Myisha Lacey-Tilson  
Edward Beitz  
Angela Giampolo  
Wendy C. Hess  
Teresa Rodriguez

Neil Maskeri  
Lauren McKenna  
Vincent Barbera  
Timothy Holman  
Eileen Quigley  
David Shapiro

**On Phone:**

Erin Siciliano

**Non-Voting Members**

**Present:**

Lawrence Beaser  
Albert S. Dandridge III  
Mark Tarasiewicz  
Louis Rulli  
Sophia Lee

Harry Reichner  
Butler Buchanan  
Kathleen Wilkinson

**Absent:**

Thomas Brophy  
Jennifer Snyder  
Mary Kate Martin  
Patricia Infanti  
Jessica Sharp

