

Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors
May 25, 2006

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m. and upon motion made, and seconded, the minutes of the April, 2006 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. The Treasurer's Report was given by Assistant Treasurer, Jeff Lindy. He noted that the Association was "over budget" by \$126,242.00. When a Board member noted that the term "over budget" actually means a negative variance, as opposed to a positive variance as intended by Mr. Lindy, he responded that he was using "non-accountant" language in his presentation. It can only be assumed that such approach was for the benefit of the undersigned and those other Quicken dependent Board members. After a motion and seconded, the report was unanimously adopted.

3. The Chancellor next gave his announcements. A Chancellor's forum on Merit Selection was held on April 28, 2006. He thanked all participants and stated that currently State Senator Greenleaf is being pressed to hold public hearings on the issue. He has asked the Executive Director of the Jenkins Law Library to meet with individuals from the Association to attempt to create a relationship between the two entities, particularly with regard to their respective web sites. The 2007 Judicial Election Task Force met on May 17, 2006. It is attempting to formulate policy in the event the Association is approached by appellate judges running for retention, given the circumstances of last year's elections. The Chancellor reported that the Raising the Bar program now has 62 participating law firms. Judge Rendell will speak at the Diversity Conference on June 5, 2006. The brochures for the Law Firm Management Division (proposed) and Bench Bar conference will be going out to the membership shortly. Finally, the Quarterly luncheon has been scheduled for June 19, 2006.

4. The Chair gave his announcements. He yielded the floor to Ken Shear who introduced new staff members, including Tracy Blevins (Director of Meetings and Special Events), Dawn Burger (Meetings Coordinator) and Brett Schaeffer (Web Master). Brian Chacker next spoke on behalf of the YLD, thanking all for attending and/or supporting the YLD Comedy Night. They raised over \$30,000.00 for the Bar Foundation. What a joke. Finally, Kathleen Wilkinson, pursuant to Association Bylaw 216, again explained the Pro Bono Requirement for membership on the Board. Forms were available for members to fill out which will enable them to receive a Pro Bono case if needed to complete their requirement. Written certification must be received by June 30th.

5. Joe Sullivan presented the report of the Task Force on CLE for Pro Bono Service. He emphasized that this was not intended to displace the essential classroom training. The proposal includes participants receiving one (1) CLE credit for every six (6) hours of pro bono work completed, up to a maximum of three (3) credits per year. The pilot project would last for three (3) years and then would be reviewed to determine its future. A resolution was prepared by Larry Beaser and moved and seconded. The Resolution called for the adoption of the Task Force Report and Recommendations and called for their submission to the CLE Board and the Supreme Court. There was some discussion on the impact this proposal would have on the 12 hours CLE requirement and the necessity of classroom training for lawyers. At the conclusion of discussion and after the Chancellor asked the Board to pass the Resolution and take the lead on the issue statewide, the Resolution passed unanimously.

6. Joe Sullivan next presented a Resolution from the Delivery of Legal Services Committee to cosponsor a report and recommendations of the American Bar Association's Presidential Task Force on Access to Justice in Civil cases, better known as "Civil Gideon". After a brief discussion, the Resolution passed with two (2) abstentions.

7. Bob Meek presented a Resolution from the Civil Rights Committee on the National Security Agency's secret electronic surveillance program. After discussion on the "tone" of the Resolution, Mr. Meek agreed to withdraw it and present a re-worded version in the future. The Chancellor requested that the new Resolution focus on our Constitutional concerns about the balance of powers.

8. Sayde Ladov next presented three (3) resolutions on behalf of the LRIS committee. The first sought to raise the income eligibility limit for the Low Fee Plan to 250% of the of the official poverty threshold. It is presently 200% of the threshold. After a brief discussion, the Resolution unanimously passed. Ms. Ladov's second Resolution on behalf of the LRIS committee addressed amendments to its operating rules governing appeals to the Board from suspensions and/or removals of attorneys from the Service. After brief discussion, the Resolution passed unanimously. Finally, Ms. Ladov presented a Resolution opposing H.B. 487, providing (in theory) for lawyer referral service civil immunity. The concern lies in the fact that the current draft of the legislation provides a "back door" cause of action against referral services. After acceptance of a friendly amendment by Ms. Ladov, the Resolution passed unanimously.

9. Ken Fleisher and Michael Balent presented a Resolution from the Real Property section opposing amendments to the mechanic's lien law. After a detailed discussion on the serious impact the amendments would have to practitioners in this area of the law and after acceptance of a friendly amendment concerning the language of the bill, the Resolution passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved at 5:54 P.M. and the Board followed the sartorial leadership of Mark Cohen and his brilliant green shirt out into the night and the start of a holiday weekend.

Respectfully submitted:
John E. Savoth
Secretary