

**Philadelphia Bar Association  
Board of Governors Meeting  
July 20, 2016**

Meeting was called to order by Chair McKenna at 4:07pm.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Foley presented the treasurers report. As of June year to date we are ahead of budget by \$109,899. Revenue is running over budget by \$30,480, this is primarily attributed to Dues and affiliated organizations. Expenses are running under budget by \$79,419, this is primarily attributed to benefits and cost savings measures. The report was approved without discussion.

Former Chancellor Bill Fedullo presented on the Judicial Commission Task Force and their recommendations for enhancements. He acknowledged the leadership of Shelley Smith as the Chair of the Commission.

The task force and full Commission has decided to independently investigate and rate Appellate Court candidates who have principal offices or chambers in Philadelphia. We will consider rating candidates from other cities only after gaining experience with locally based candidates. We are hoping to rate those appellate candidates in early October, November or December. We are going to encourage candidates to submit for evaluation earlier so that the process can start early. We are going to have a Chancellor's Forum in the fall and invite the candidates, and possibly the ward leaders and meet with the party officials. The idea is to get an earlier rating and an easier consideration in making endorsements. The Commission decided against making the candidates' questionnaires public. There were concerns with privacy and that candidates may not disclose critical matter if they know the Commission would release the information beyond the confidential process. They are going to keep the 90% threshold to achieve highly recommended ratings and it will be re-evaluated after this cycle. The Commission will release on the website the ratings of those who get recommended and highly recommended ratings immediately and those who are not recommended will be given time to appeal and schedule a second appointment. We will not be giving the public reasons for not recommended ratings aside from the ten categories unless the candidate releases the Commission. There was also a discussion of communicating the recommendations more effectively and they developed a plan to include: meeting with reporters, publicizing the ratings, increasing use of social media, adding the ratings to the Bar's website the same day they are issued, creating a flyer that looks like a sample ballot, providing citizens with fliers, providing the fliers at the polling places and with ward leaders. The Task Force also addressed the Commission's effectiveness with party leaders and decided that they would meet with party leaders, ward leaders and committee people to encourage endorsement of recommended candidates. There was also an idea for publication by different representatives from the sections and committees and affinity organizations by appointing a liaison to each group's members to publicize the judicial poll and encourage participation. Finally, the Task Force recommended amending the definition of "devotion to improvement of the quality of justice" to add the

following phrase at the end of the definition: “and participation in legal education programs for the profession and for the community.” Any ideas that further explain the rating system are welcome. Director of Public and Legal Services Charlie Klitsch was thanked for the great work he has done over the years.

Chancellor Alfano advised that after the Commission meeting they met with staff to discuss the judicial candidates’ Chancellor’s Forum and the best means to get the information out as efficiently as possible. It was also mentioned that the number of Commission members may need to be expanded as the number of positions open may increase. This may need to be considered by the Board.

Chancellor-Elect Gross clarified that we are going to invite committee people and ward leaders to the Chancellor’s Forum to educate them about our process and so they can understand what our process is.

Chair McKenna recognized Immediate Past Chancellor Dandridge to present on the date for commencement of voting for bar elections. The bylaws have been amended to allow internet voting, so we need to have the Board approve the commencement date for voting. The Annual Meeting is December 7, 2016, and the voting needs to commence at least two weeks before that pursuant to the bylaws. Consequently, the Monday before Thanksgiving, November 21, 2016 is the proposed date for the commencement of voting. We are still working out final details with vendors to conduct the voting. We will be able to vote until close of business at 5:30pm on December 7, 2016. There is a separate schedule with the other dates and deadlines required for the election, but that cannot be finalized until the commencement of voting date is set. Therefore, the Board must approve the date for commencement of voting before the rest of the schedule is approved. The proposed date was moved by Immediate Past Chancellor Dandridge and it was approved unanimously.

Chair McKenna advised that there would be more information about the election to follow. Chancellor-Elect Gross advised there was a great series of presentations by vendors and they learned a lot about all of the options available. CFO Susan Knight advised that we have basically narrowed the selection to one and we just need to make sure Director of Public and Legal Services Charlie Klitsch and Director of Communications Meredith Avakian Hardaway’s needs are met for the bar-wide survey and plebiscite. Chancellor Alfano advised that there was one vendor that had a one year annual membership charge, so we could run a plebiscite on judicial retirement age, a bar wide survey and the election for one price at a significant cost savings. The guy who created this particular company is a lawyer and they have experience with judicial polls.

Chair McKenna recognized Chancellor Alfano to present the resolution regarding the proposed bylaw amendment on dues. Currently we either have thirteen or eighteen categories of dues and the dues rates are in the bylaws. We checked with most metropolitan bar associations who advised that the dues schedule is typically determined by the boards, as opposed to set in the bylaws. We were hoping to create a revised dues structure that could be voted upon at the meeting at Bench Bar. However, greater consideration revealed that this timeline would not be workable, because we want to ensure that the new structure doesn’t cost us membership and

doesn't raise dues significantly at any level. Therefore, we decided it made the most sense to take the delineated dues schedule out of the bylaws and give the Board the authority to set the dues schedule. Whatever the dues turn out to be they will be transparent. Scott Small moved to approve the resolution to amend the bylaws seconded by Assistant Treasurer Klyashtorney and it passed unanimously.

Chancellor Alfano also updated the Board on the progress of the bar-wide survey that will include the membership's position on judicial retirement age. A request was made for input to Director of Public and Legal Services Charlie Klitsch on topics that should be included in the survey beyond the retirement age and what to do with the magazine. Our goal is to get the survey out to the membership by early September. Ira Lefton asked if we would be bound by the results of the survey as to judicial retirement age, and the answer was that we would not be bound, but it would give us a sense of the membership, so we can determine how to act. We have not done a membership survey in about ten years, so we want people to respond. We need to limit the number of questions. Former Chancellor Fedullo suggested that Professor Rulli should be involved in authoring the plebiscite question about judicial retirement age, because how the question is phrased will be important. Vice Chancellor Platt also suggested that if there is someone who has a greater interest in a particular area, they could respond to additional questions on that topic. Professor Rulli indicated that if we have one or two questions about each aspect of what we do it will help educate our members about the range of our work.

Chancellor Alfano also updated the Board on the situation with USI. He advised that he, Chancellor-Elect Gross, Vice Chancellor Platt, Assistant Executive Director Paul Kazaras and Insurance Committee Chair Doug Widin had a first meeting with USI which was constructive. Chancellor Alfano reported that we owe Doug a debt of gratitude because he was able to give a lot of insight and asked a lot of powerful questions about their position and questioned it very effectively to put us in a better position for negotiation. He was very, very helpful.

Chair McKenna pointed out the Bench Bar brochures and asked everyone to participate and encourage others to participate.

Director of Meetings and Special Events Tracey McCloskey reported that we are partnering with the Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation to host a guest bartending networking event at Finn McCool's on Thursday, Aug. 18 from 5-8 p.m. to raise money through tips for The Barkann Foundation and to fund the Association's Public Interest & Government Attorney scholarships for the 2016 Bench-Bar & Annual Conference. We need guest celebrity bartenders for the event. A professional bartender will be partnered with each celebrity bartender. There will be raffles available as well. We already have Chancellor Alfano, Chancellor Elect Gross and several members of the Worker's Compensation Section as guest bartenders.

The meeting was closed at 4:36pm and executive session commenced.

**Board of Governors  
Attendance  
July 20, 2016**

**Voting members**

**Present:**

Gaetan J. Alfano  
Deborah R. Gross  
Mary F. Platt  
Jennifer S. Coatsworth  
Regina M. Foley  
Natalie Klyashtorny  
Lauren McKenna  
Myisha Lacey-Tilson  
Ira Lefton  
Maureen Farrell

Angela Giampolo  
Adam Taylor  
Teresa Rodriguez  
Albert S. Dandridge III  
Matthew Olesh  
Katayun Jaffari  
Scott Small  
Maureen Olives  
Brad Rush  
Joseph Turchi

**Present on phone:**

Jacqueline Segal  
Rahat Babar  
Erin Siciliano

Shabrei Parker  
Erin Lamb

**Absent:**

Kevin Mincey  
Lawrence Felzer  
Jeremy Menkowitz  
Peter Newman  
Kathleen Kirkpatrick  
Jeffrey Rosenthal  
Julia Swain  
Edward Beitz

James Funt  
Wendy Hess  
Brad Shuttleworth  
Thomas Innes  
Dina Ronsayro  
Eileen Quigley  
Jennifer O'Leary

**Non-voting members**

**Present:**

William Fedullo  
Rochelle Fedullo

Louis Rulli  
Kathleen Wilkinson

**Absent:**

Lawrence Beaser  
Mark Tarasiewicz  
Sophia Lee

Steven Bizar  
Butler Buchanan  
Andrea Yannuzzi

Patricia Infanti  
Andrew Laver

Cheryl Disch  
Jennifer P. Snyder