

**Philadelphia Bar Association
Board of Governors Meeting
July 25, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Racine at 4:03pm.

Chair Racine distributed lists of lapsed Association members for Board members to sign up to call. We need to raise members. Membership is half price for new members. Contact information for those members volunteer to contact will be provided.

The minutes from the June 27, 2019 meeting were considered. A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

Treasurer Marc Zucker gave the Treasurer's Report for the period ending June 30, 2019. With the June financials in, we have a clearer idea of the Association's financial performance in the first half of the year, and it is not as good as was expected or hoped.

Revenues for the month of June were about \$81,000 less than budgeted for the month, which brought revenues down by over \$45,000 below what was anticipated in the budget for the first half of the year. However, prior months were more positive and with dues collection close to last year's figures, the Association is only down by \$9000 from the overall year-to-date revenues that were received last year. However, that's not good enough, because we want to exceed last year, so everyone was encouraged to work harder to focus on new sources of revenue.

On the expense side, the Association is still in the black. The Association spent \$51,000 less than what was budgeted for the month, and about \$64,000 less than the amount budgeted for the first half of the year. This is despite some increases in salary and benefits expenditures for the first half of the year, as well as increases in the communications costs and meetings and special event costs.

Overall, the Association is in the red for the month, relative to budget, but about \$20,000 in the black relative to the budget for the full six-month period. Compared to last year's figures for the six-month period, the Association is over \$38,000 in the black. CFO Susan Knight continues to believe the Association will stay within the budget for the year.

A motion to approve the report was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Association state lobbyist Anthony Crisci reported on legislative and budget activities. Harrisburg is currently on vacation and not in session. The House comes back on September 17, and the Senate on September 24. The agendas will be light. The Senate is only in for 15 session days, and one of which will likely be non-voting. The House is scheduled for 24 days. The legislature did pass the state budget, which was uneventful. This is a \$34 billion budget, 1.8% increase from last year. There are some increases, because some items are funded through other means. The Governor spent much of the surplus from last year's budget, which shocked the General Assembly, but he had the authority to do it. They were able to get this through without a tax increase, except for table games tax, which they knew was coming.

He then reported on the items in the budget that the Association watches. Education funding did well, though not as well as it could have done. There was even an increase for higher education, which is unusual. Pre-K and Head Start and school safety got a good amount of money, and the general fund for public education did well. From the policy side, there were a lot of ideas from the governor, but none of them came to fruition, The minimum wage increase didn't happen, nor did Restore PA, which was surprising. Usually the governor gets at least one agenda item, but in this instance, he did not. The Democratic staff indicated that they didn't see the numbers until the last weekend, so they didn't get to see what was happening. There was not a lot of negotiation.

The big issue is the elimination of cash assistance. The governor did not veto it, which left a lot of Democrats upset. The real highlight of the budget was the scene in the Senate, which was raucous. This is unusual for the Senate, which is usually a very austere body, who follow the rules and there are few arguments. There was a huge argument over procedure, all of which was captured on video and went viral on social media. The Senate Republicans didn't let this go, and wrote a letter to the Lieutenant Governor. The leader of the Senate is from State College, and he is getting a lot of heat from the progressives there.

The Republicans in the House and Senate are very afraid of losing the majority in one of the chambers in the next election. They likely won't do much unless they need it for the election. There will be abortion rights bills and charter school bills, but they likely will not pass. There will also be landlord tenant bills and squatters' rights bills that come up. The fear of 2020 is what is driving the fall agenda. The governor will push the minimum wage and Restore PA.

Chancellor Fedullo asked about sales tax for legal services. Crisci replied that the issue is always there, but likely will not pass. The Republicans will try to push whatever voting reforms they can get passed. The Democrats in the NW and SW did not support straight party voting.

Chancellor Fedullo announced that she is appointing Erin Siciliano to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ira Lefton as Assistant Secretary. A motion to approve her appointment was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

Executive Director Harvey Hurdle presented the monthly Executive Director's Report. He stressed the Association is still working on the three pillars: building the platform, making the numbers and raising the profile. June was not a great month, primarily due to a shortfall in LRIS, largely due to implementing a new system. Through July, LRIS has collected \$56,000 and the budget is \$31,000 for that department, so the shortfall is already being diminished. The number of calls and the number of referrals was consistent with budget, but cash was lagging. It is now pulling back in through the new system. The staff is meeting regularly to stay on top of this issue and ensure that cash continues to come in at the required levels.

CLE was down slightly, because there was budget item for June for a six-hour class that will now be in September. 3-4 classes will also be added to make up the shortfall. The Association is 21% ahead over last year, even though it is a little behind budget. Total CLE revenue is 34% ahead of last year, because of sponsorships.

Membership is critical. The Association has already made the October budget for membership, but that is not the goal; the goal is to have more membership than last year so we

can state we are a growing organization. The Association is \$11,500 behind where it was last year on membership, so the Board was encouraged to make the calls to the people they selected prior to the meeting. This is important and makes a difference. These are people who have been involved, who have not yet renewed. The list is those who were members as recently as last year, so they are the best chance for renewal. This is two weeks before the August free CLE. They have enough time to get their membership in before the CLE deadline. Those who are lapsed more than two years are considered new members and get half price membership.

For building the platform, the staff has already spent a full day on the website and there will be two more full days of re-writing each screen of the website. This will be a lot of staff time, because the staff is redesigning each screen. The goal is to have all the screens up and running before the renewal process. The second round of drawings on the renovations for the building has occurred. The project will start on the 10th floor and all of the offices will be on the 10th floor. There will be minimal meeting space on that floor. Once that stage is complete, there will be a new conference center on the 11th floor. The City architect has been very responsive to date. There is no timeline, and the freight elevators are not available until Jefferson is done with their renovations. We are hoping the deal includes new furniture, which we are trying to negotiate, but the architect is including the furniture in the drawings.

Raising the Profile was a great first half of the year. The Harrison Tweed award will be advertised beginning in August. The Association is working on getting success stories from the PEP project from CLS to get faces to associate with the work done. The new LRIS system platform will also be heavily publicized. The upcoming Chancellors Forums will also be heavily publicized. It is still unclear what will happen with right to counsel legislation, but we will be ready to publicize if Councilwoman Gym wants to do so. There will also be work around retention judges. The idea that the media people suggested is that we should tie those judges who are not retained back to the fact that they are not recommended by the Bar Association. However, this is very risky and the Board did not think this was advisable. There is no way to move the needle, because there is not the same kind of campaign as there is to elect qualified judges.

Bench Bar is being examined to determine what programs to promote in advance and there is a possibility of having press at Bench Bar, and potentially highlighting certain events from Bench Bar. A social media company has just provided a proposal to boost our social media presence. The social media is lagging in responsiveness and appearance and will be revamped and refreshed. Executive Director Hurdle and CFO Susan Knight are working on a detailed expense projection for the remainder of the year. He suggested that if Sections have exciting work, please let him know, because it will help increase membership. There were some very natural things on which to raise the profile for the first half of the year.

Chancellor Fedullo, congratulated everyone for coming out in July, even if there are no resolutions on the agenda. She thanked the Board for being excellent and she brought cupcakes to thank the board. She continues to love being the Chancellor.

The mentorship initiative is up and running. There was a workshop earlier this week presented by Joe Mitchell on actual mentorship strategies. It is a bit under the radar, but it is going forward. There are two Chancellors' Forums this fall. Reggie Shuford presented on the September 16 forum about the Exonerated 5 (Central Park 5). It is based on *When They See Us*,

Ava DuVernay's Netflix program. Nikki Johnston-Huston approached Reggie Shuford and Keir Bradford Gray about doing an event, after the program aired on Netflix, which became the idea for the Chancellor's Forum. He thanked the Chancellor for lending her name and position to the program, and the Chancellor indicated she was thrilled to do so due to the importance of the issue. The forum will address the issue of the racially disproportionate affect in the criminal justice system. The same issues that were present then are still present, and must be addressed. Chancellor Fedullo thanked Reggie for working on this and explained that it is important. The idea for this year's Chancellor's Forums were about doing programming outside the bounds of the normal work of sections and committees and there has been very good attendance.

The National Conference of Bar Presidents is in a few weeks around the time of the ABA Annual meeting. This is when she will receive the Tweed award on behalf of the Association. She will be present for a wellness program that former Chancellor Kathleen Wilkinson is presenting. This ties in with an issue that is very important to her and about which she wrote in her column in the Bar Reporter this month. She wrote about her experience with her mother as she descended through dementia. She wrote about this, because we are people outside our legal profession. She thinks it is an incredibly important issue and it hits people personally. There will be a Chancellor's forum on this issue on October 21, called Navigating the New Normal. Rabbi Erica Steelman is one of the presenters; she was the Rabbi at Abramson Center for Jewish Life for her mom. The other speaker is Gail Cummings, a lawyer turned therapist. She is still working on developing other speakers. Law is about human relationships, and she believes this is an important topic.

Chair Racine reported that all Board members should complete the form for BPU and return to Director of Public and Legal Services Charlie Klitsch or CFO Susan Knight. She also explained that Board members are to select five people to contact from the list of members that have lapsed within the last year and encourage them to renew their membership. Bench Bar registration is open. If you have CLE Board pledges then this is a great opportunity to satisfy it. We should be there and be well represented. There are at least 8.5 credits available and she encouraged Board members to attend as the leaders of the Association. Chair Racine presented the thermometer. The Board is currently at under \$10,000, but should be at \$12,000 of the \$20,000 commitment at this point in the year. This is \$3,000 behind where it should be at this time. She asked the Board to raise their hands if they received her email and if they replied to it, and very few had. She will accept replies after the meeting.

Matt Olesh announced that the Board Observer program is accepting applications. This is a partnership between the YLD and the Bar Foundation. He suggested that young lawyers apply, if they are interested.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned into executive session at approximately 4:48pm. In the Executive Session, the Board approved the minutes from the Executive Session held on June 27, 2019. No other action was taken by the Board in the Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer S. Coatsworth
Secretary

**Board of Governors Attendance
July 25, 2019**

Voting members present

Rochelle Fedullo
Hon. A. Michael Snyder (Ret.)
Lauren McKenna
Jennifer Coatsworth
Marc Zucker
Matthew Olesh
Amber Racine
Nicholas Kamau
Katayun Jaffari
Hon. Sandra Mazer Moss (Ret.)
Maureen Olives
Benjamin Barnett
Meghan Claiborne
Francesca Iacovangelo
Alisha Rodriguez

Michael van der Veen
Dominique Ward
James Berardinelli
Lawrence Felzer
Riley Ross
P. Douglas Sisk
Neelima Vanguri
Michaela Bowser
Kris Calalang
Maureen Farrell
Brenda Marrero
Erin Siciliano
Mark Mazzanti
Mary Platt
Reginald Shuford

Absent:

Susan Lin
Neil Maskeri
Jennifer Seme
Diane Penneys Edelman
Dino Privitera

Hillary Ladov
Marcel Pratt
Leon Goodman
Alexander Barth
Cheryl Upham

Non-voting members present:

Lawrence Beaser
Leslie John
Butler Buchanan

Wesley Payne
Harvey Hurdle

Absent:

Abraham Reich

Invited guests present:

Louis Rulli

