

**LACKAWANNA BAR ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 9, 2020  
MINUTES**

The Annual Meeting of the Lackawanna Bar Association was held on January 9, 2020 at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel. President Armand E. Olivetti, Jr, Esq. called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and welcomed the membership.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sid Prejean and LBA Veterans Committee.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

President Olivetti requested a moment of silence from the membership for those members of the Bar Association who had passed away since last year's Annual Meeting:

John J. Aponick, Esq.  
John J. Brier, Esq.  
Honorable Edwin M. Kosik  
Otto P. Robinson, Jr., Esq.  
Michael T. Savitsky, Esq.  
Edwin Utan, Esq.  
Honorable James J. Walsh  
Robert W. Munley, Jr., Esq.  
Bruce Phillips, Esq.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND COLLECTION OF BALLOTS**

President Olivetti welcomed the newly admitted members of the Bar Association. These members completed the collection of the ballots.

**INVOCATION**

President Olivetti introduced Thomas P. Cummings, Esq. who offered the Invocation.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**PRESENTATION OF LBA EXEMPLARY SERVICE AWARD**

The Exemplary Service Award was presented to Jennifer Menichini, Esq. for the outstanding service and leadership she has performed for the LBA, the PBA and her community. Attorney Menichini is a member of the LBA Board of Directors and currently serves as the PBA YLD Statewide Chair. Congratulations and thank you, an award well deserved!!

## **PRESENTATION OF THE WILLIAM J. DEMPSEY AWARD**

A new award was recently approved by the LBA Board honoring the memory of a former member, William J. Dempsey, Esq. The award is to recognize the same collegiality, professionalism and mentorship exhibited by “Weezer” Dempsey throughout his legal career. The family of Mr. Dempsey, represented by sons Matt and Terry, as well as grandson Mike, presented the first annual award to Attorney Michael “Mickey” Perry. Congratulations!!

## **LACKAWANNA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS REPORT**

Delivered by Honorable Trish Corbett.

Judge Corbett referenced the LBA website as an excellent source of the statistical data regarding the judicial case load. The 2019 report from the court is available at above mentioned website.

Judge Corbett also discussed the move to the former Globe Store site as a positive change. She also cited the several specialty courts which the County has and for which the LBA is most proud.

## **REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA BAR ASSOCIATION**

PBA President Anne N. John, Esq. first acknowledged and supported the new Weezer Award as an excellent way to improve collegiality at our local Bar Association. She similarly acknowledged the efforts of Jennifer Menichini and the LBA’s efforts to cultivate collegiality and equal access to justice.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2019 Annual Meeting was made by Sylvia Hahn, Esq. and seconded by Terry Dempsey, Esq. The motion passed unanimously.

## **TREASURER’S REPORT AND ADOPTION OF 2018 BUDGET**

LBA Treasurer John J. McGovern, Jr. gave the Treasurer’s Report.

A motion to approve the 2020 budget as presented was made by William J. Hall Esq. and seconded by Lawrence Durkin, Esq. The motion carried unanimously.

## **PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Armand Olivetti began by thanking the LBA staff for another outstanding job for the year.

He referenced the new LBA website as well as the expanded CLE credit opportunities as a few examples of the LBA’s accomplishments over the past year.

He also acknowledged the new site for the LBA Dinner/Dance (Glenmaura National Golf Club) which was very successful as well as another great result for the Wills for Heroes program.

He urged the LBA to expand the Public Relations Committee responsibilities to include fostering the image of its members.

**INSTALLATION OF YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION PRESIDENT**

YLD Past President Joseph Gardner Price introduced Ryan Campbell, incoming President of the Young Lawyers Division, and administered the oath of office to him.

**YOUNG LAWYERS’ DIVISION PRESIDENT’S REMARKS**

The YLD President acknowledged the efforts of Jennifer Menichini, who is one of their own. The YLD proudly acknowledged a few of their group efforts including the “Jog for Jude” benefit held during Law Month which raised \$5000; Dear Santa program; and the upcoming Mock Trial program.

**INSTALLATION OF LACKAWANNA BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

Outgoing President Armand E. Olivetti, Jr. introduced Mary Walsh Dempsey, incoming Bar Association President, and administered the Oath of Office to Attorney Walsh Dempsey.

**PASSING OF THE GAVEL**

Immediate Past President Olivetti invited all former presidents of the LBA to participate in the ceremonial “Passing of the Gavel”

**PRESENTATION OF PAST PRESIDENT’S PIN AND PLAQUE**

Attorney Olivetti was presented with a plaque and past President’s Pin.

**PRESIDENT’S REMARKS**

President Mary Walsh Dempsey offered thanks to former President Olivetti-citing his competency and leadership. She thanked the LBA staff as well as the LBA Board members. She vowed to continue the tradition of integrity, competency and leadership citing the past presidents as a model. She hopes to make her focus on inclusion, diversity and acceptance. Good luck to our new president. We are in good hands.

**ELECTION RESULTS**

President Dempsey announced the results of the Bar Association election. The results are as follows:

- Vice President Michael F. Cosgrove, Esq.
- Executive Committee (5 Year Term) Lori A. Barrett, Esq.
- Senior Director (5 Year Term) Mark T. Perry, Esq.

The results of the Young Lawyers Division election were announced as follows:

Vice-President	Ciara L. DeNaples, Esq.
Secretary	James D. Greco, Esq.
Treasurer	Jordan Mazzoni, Esq.
Board members	Peter J. Adonizio, Esq.
	John M. Hart, III, Esq.
	Bo Loughney, Esq.
	Harry P. McGrath, Jr., Esq.
	Elizabeth Speicher Van Wert, Esq.

### **EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD**

Honorable James Gibbons was invited to present the Equal Access to Justice Awards to the following firms:

Abrahamsen, Conaboy & Abrahamsen; Dougherty, Leventhal & Price; Pisanchyn Law Firm; Powell Law

### **ATTORNEY SAMUEL FALLK EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD**

President Walsh Dempsey called upon the Honorable James Gibbons, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Lackawanna County, to also present the Attorney Samuel Fallk Equal Access to Justice Award to Anthony J. Piazza, Esq. who tried a pro bono case for 3 days and was successful. That was only the 3<sup>rd</sup> jury trial by Pro Bono in 22+ years.

The award was also given to the Family Court Administrators for their efforts in operating a difficult court room experience. The individuals are:

Claire L. Czaykowski, Esq., Deputy Court Administrator for Family Courts

Carla Hughes Mullen

Donna Iannuzzo

Barbara Perri

Fabiana Vargas

### **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Christopher Piazza and seconded by Sid Prejean. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Timothy J. Holland

Secretary