

**NEBRASKA LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018
September 30, 2017
Karen Niedfelt for Teresa Hartwig, Secretary**

Call to Order. The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Legal Professionals Association was held on Saturday, September 30, 2017, at the Law Enforcement Center community room at 110 Public Safety Drive, Grand Island, Nebraska. The meeting was called to order at 1:16 pm. by President Lori Chapman.

Lori Chapman welcomed everyone in attendance at the Board Meeting and Karen Niedfelt read the Mission Statement and Standing Rule No. 17.

Roll Call. Roll call was taken by Karen Niedfelt, as follows:

Roll Call of Officers:	<u>Present/Absent</u>
Lori Chapman, President	Present
Jennifer Elkins, Vice President	Present
Teresa Hartwig, Secretary	Absent
Alicia Hunt, Treasurer	Present
Carol Paige, Parliamentarian	Absent

Roll Call of Chapter Representatives, Members-at-Large, and Chapter Count:

	<u>Present/Absent</u>	<u>Chapter Count</u>
CNLP – Karen Niedfelt	Present	5
LLPA – Sandie Smith, PLS	Present	3
OLPA – Bonnie Kudron, Pro Tem	Present	9
Member at Large – Jody Weinmeister	Present	1
<hr/>		
Total		18

A quorum was established.

Other Chairpersons/Members/Guests Present. Erica Wilsey, Ali Stefanini, Shelly Nielsen, Lisa Bryan, Jean Roeder, Sharon Huber, Lori Ready, Cherie Sempek, PLS, CLA, Kathy Bass, CP, Lynda Henningsen, and Mary Baker.

Officer Reports:

President: Lori Chapman had no report at this time.

Vice President: Jennifer Elkins reported NLPA has a total of 119 members. She also reported that LLPA held their 11th annual golf tournament on September 9 and would like to have more members from Grand Island and Omaha attend next year's annual tournament.

Secretary: Karen Niedfelt presented Teresa Hartwig's report. Sympathy cards were sent to Bonnie Kudron for the loss of her brother-in-law, Jim Kobza; to Deb Hubbs for the loss of her mother-in-law, Emma Hubbs; and to Terry Englund for the loss of his wife, Carla Englund, who was a member of CNLP and NLPA.

Treasurer: Alicia Hunt distributed the Treasurer's Report. The balance on hand as of June 16, 2017 was \$11,644.92 and the balance on hand as of September 29, 2017 was \$11,009.83. The bank balance as of September 29, 2017 was \$11,154.05. Receipts during this time were membership dues totaling \$425.00 and interest of \$1.53. Disbursements totaled \$1,061.62 for Chapter Rep travel, Officer's Travel, postage, photocopies and office supplies, and scholarships. It was noted there are three outstanding checks for \$25 each for scholarship judge donations, chapter rep travel in the amount of \$19.22, and replacement check #1064 for Habitat speaker donation at the spring seminar. Check #1034 is presumed lost but still shown as outstanding and will be off the list since it was replaced with #1064.

Alicia presented the Membership Count by Chapter and category as follows:

Total Membership Count as of 9-30-2017				
Chapter	General	Students	Honorary	Total
CNLP	10	0	5	15
LLPA	50	2	1	53
OLPA	41	3	6	50
MAL	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	102	5	12	119

Alicia requested that the chapters forward updated rosters to her as changes occur so she can keep the NLPA roster current.

The Treasurer's report will be filed subject to audit.

Parliamentarian: Carol Paige was absent and had no report at this time.

Committee Reports:

1. **Annual Convention.** Bonnie Kudron reported that she and Sherry Mitchell will be chairing the 2018 annual meeting that will be held at the Double Tree Omaha Southwest, 3650 South 72nd Street, Omaha April 27 through 29 and that a number of members from OLPA have agreed to be on sub-committees. The phone number for the Double Tree is 402-905-9414 for those who wish to make early reservations. The theme will be "Twenty-One and Legal". OLPA has a number of good ideas for speakers but have no confirmations yet. The budget will be presented at the January meeting. The committee plans to keep the registration fee at \$60 and members are soliciting contributions from Omaha area law firms, the Omaha Bar Association and the Nebraska Bar Association. All events for the weekend will be held at the Double Tree – Friday evening social; Saturday seminar, board meeting, and banquet; and the Sunday morning breakfast and board meeting.
2. **Audit.** Members of (LLPA) had no report at this time.

3. **Budget.** No report at this time.
4. **Historian.** No report at this time.
5. **Legal Education.** Position open.
6. **Legal Professional of the Year.** Teresa Hartwig (CNLP) provided report that noted information regarding the Legal Professional of the Year will be sent out after the first of the year.
7. **Nominations and Elections.** No report at this time.
8. **Publication.** Kathy Bass, CP noted that the deadline for the next issue of *The SideBar*, to be published following the fall seminar, is October 13. This deadline for getting reports to Kathy for the fall issue follows the established schedule of the second Friday after the seminar for each issue. The minutes from the Board Meeting following the most recent seminar are to be included. Kathy again requests updates and corrections from the Board and Committee lists and that chapters please send photos from different chapter events or celebrating individuals to Kathy and she will include them with the Chapter Reports. All other Committee Reports are also welcome and encouraged.
9. **Scholarship.** Jody Weinmeister asked if NLPA would have a fundraiser to support the scholarships totaling \$2,000 to be awarded in the spring and Bonnie stated there will be a ways and means project as part of the annual meeting but there are no details at this time. Jody requested clarification of the scholarship amounts for the letters she will be sending out in January. Kathy Bass moved to confirm that the scholarship amounts are \$1,250 and \$750 for first place and second place, respectively, for a total of \$2,000 for the year. Bonnie Kudron seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.
10. **Seminar-Fall.** Bonnie asked for a report on the budget for the fall seminar. Ali and Erica reported there were 19 paid registrations at \$25 for a total of \$475; expenses of \$200, speaker fees for \$75, and lunch at \$290, for total expenses of \$565, resulting in a net loss of \$90.
11. **Seminar-Spring.** Tina Scully (LLPA) was absent but LLPA noted that she is presently working on speakers for the spring seminar. Lisa suggested that the spring seminar and annual meeting chairpersons work together to assure that the speakers and topics don't overlap relative to content. Further discussion ensued as to whether or not we really need a spring seminar so close in time with the annual meeting and perhaps this issue should be revisited. It was noted this has been discussed a number of times in the past and that our mission is education. Other thoughts were to consider having the spring seminar earlier and/or the annual meeting later. However, this would create other issues such as NLPA's fiscal year and all changes inherent with making that type of change. It was then suggested that Lori Chapman appoint a task force consisting of members from each of the three chapters, our member-at-large, and the website committee to create a survey to poll the membership online to determine best options for continuing the spring seminar and possible changes in times to be held. Kathy Bass, CP, moved that Lori Chapman appoint a task force to develop an online survey to poll the members concerning this issue.
12. **Website/Web Master.** Lisa Bryan (OLPA) noted the website is quite an expense (has been \$756 a year) and it will be coming up for renewal very soon. Mary

Baker noted that, considering the annual fee spread among the three chapters, the per-member cost of just over \$6 per person is quite reasonable. It's taken NLPA some time to get to this point with many hurdles along the way -- and do we really want to change things again? It seems there are still questions as to what should or shouldn't be on the website and who should be able to access specific components of information. Access to *The SideBar*, in particular, on the website was again discussed. Lisa talked about branding – who are we and what are we about? She stated OLPA is looking into branding and NLPA should consider branding also. Bonnie stated our Mission statement has always defined who we are and what we are about. Lisa then stated there is no point of contact on the website. It was also noted the website has again undergone changes and isn't as user friendly as previously.

13. **Ways & Means.** As noted above, Bonnie reported there will be a Ways and Means project but details are unknown at this time.

Chapter Reports:

CNLP: Karen Niedfelt reported CNLP met for their annual picnic on August 3 at George Park. September was the annual Mr. Habitat dinner which has become a tradition for CNLP and sponsoring a table for the benefit of Habitat is one way CNLP supports the community. It was an enjoyable evening. Our October meeting will be a tour of the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center and the speaker will be David Stolz.

The November meeting will be at the Saddle Club with the speaker being Lori Moss or Lisa Hageman who are Court Reporters. December will be our annual Christmas Event/Party, with plans to be determined. Our January speaker at Perkins will be Vladimir Bazam, Court Interpreter. Ali Stefanini related that CNLP is preparing for the Goldilocks Trials to be held April 24, 25, and 26 in Judge Teresa Luther's Courtroom at the Hall County Courthouse and invited NLPA members to come to Grand Island and witness the event. They would be welcome to serve as a bailiff if so inclined.

LLPA: Sandie Smith, PLS, reported LLPA held their July 13 General Meeting at U. S. Bank Conference Room. The meeting was hosted by Baylor Evnen. Speaker for the meeting was Michelle Paxton, the Director of Legal Training at UNL's Center for Children, Families and the Law. She spoke about the program that teaches law students about being advocates for children.

The August 10 General Meeting was held at the Wells Fargo Center Fifth Floor Conference Room. The meeting was hosted by the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court and Mattson Ricketts Davies. Zachary Thompson with the Ralph Mueller Planetarium spoke about solar and lunar eclipses and the upcoming total solar eclipse on August 21, 2017.

In September, the 11th Annual Ladies Golf Scramble was held at Pine Lake Golf Course. Nine people attended and enjoyed golfing, prizes, and wine. The September 14 General Meeting was at Rembolt Ludtke, who hosted the meeting. Kristine Lemons and

Nate, a zookeeper with the Lincoln Children Zoo, spoke. Nate brought Fuzzy, the 3-band Armadillo, and Miss Scarlett the skunk for the attendees to pet and watch as they ate treats. Ms. Lemons spoke about the expansion happening at the zoo and what new animals will be arriving. Fuzzy and Miss Scarlett were a big hit with everyone.

On October 5, LLPA will host a Vendor and Vino event at BarVino. This event will allow people to look over merchandise from several different vendors while enjoying a glass of wine. Proceeds from sales will be donated to LLPA for their scholarship. LLPA is trying this type of event instead of selling raffle tickets. The October General Meeting will be held on October 12 at the Nonprofit Hub. The speaker will be Danielle Conrad, Executive Director of ACLU of Nebraska. The topic will be The 14th Amendment: Transforming American Democracy. This meeting will be hosted by Woods & Aitkens.

OLPA: Bonnie Kudron, pro tem for Donna Olson, reported OLPA members enjoyed breakfast at the Summer Kitchen on July 14 before proceeding on to the Holy Family Shrine near Gretna. The weather was ideal for a summer outing. A few members went on to Cellar 426 and enjoyed refreshments before making the trip back to Omaha. It was a nice adventure, the site was peaceful and serene, and the view was inspiring. Several members would like to return when the trees and foliage have turned. Photos can be found in OLPA's Legal Pad.

There was no General Meeting in August. The September 13 General Meeting was held at the Regency Lodge with guest speaker Richard P. Jeffries with Cline Williams Law Firm. Rick spoke about the use of Adobe Acrobat Pro and various applications in the program that not everyone knows about. Also at the September meeting, OLPA collected \$273 for the Texas Diaper Bank in support of hurricane relief.

OLPA's fundraising event is underway – they are selling various items from Scarlet Thread. Mark Weber with the Nebraska Supreme Court Counsel for Discipline will be the guest speaker at OLPA's October 18 meeting and will be speaking on ethics.

OLPA committee members are working on the details for the NLPA Convention for April 2018. Several items have been taken care of but other areas are still in the planning stages.

Old Business:

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes. The minutes of the June 17, 2017 Board Meeting were previously approved.

New Business:

Web Site Costs and use of Websites – previously discussed.

Shelly Nielsen asked a question about Article VI, Section 5. of the Nebraska Legal Professional Association Bylaws as it pertains to Honorary Members and specifically as

to why honorary members “shall not be eligible to hold office or chair committees but shall be eligible to co-chair committees”. Bonnie Kudron responded that Section 5. was adopted into the Bylaws to keep retired members in the chapters and the state association to share in the benefits of networking and having access to information regarding seminars and legal education – that they had “admirably served their time as dues-paying members” and that as honorary members they deserved the honorary status without the responsibilities.

Duties of scholarship chair. Reference Standing Rule 20.

Membership rosters – See above Treasurer’s report.

For the Good of the Organization.

1. Acknowledgements/Celebrations.

Please see above Secretary’s report relative to sympathy cards sent to and on behalf of members

2. Care/Concerns.

Donna Olson’s father passed away. A card will be sent.

Bonnie noted Standing Rule No. 23 provides for a \$25.00 memorial to be given by NLPA to a deceased member’s immediate family or designated charity upon the member’s death and that it would be appropriate for NLPA to send a memorial to Carla Englund’s husband Terry in remembrance of Carla who was a member of CNLP and NLPA and had been installed as CNLP treasurer on April 4, one week before being diagnosed with cancer. (Her funeral service bulletin states that a memorial fund will be established in memory of Carla).

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:36 p.m. The next Board Meeting will be held in Lincoln on Saturday, January 20, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen M. Niedfelt for Teresa Hartwig,

Secretary

On September 30, 2017 Bonnie Kudron moved via email vote to approve the September 30, 2017 NLPA Board minutes. Mary Baker and Alicia Hunt seconded the motion. Motion carried.