

**NEBRASKA LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018
January 20, 2018
Teresa Hartwig, Secretary**

Call to Order. The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Legal Professionals Association was held on Saturday, January 20, 2018 in the Lincoln Room of the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13th St., Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was called to order at approximately 11:17 a.m. by President, Lori Chapman.

Lori Chapman welcomed everyone in attendance at the Board meeting and Teresa Hartwig read the Mission Statement and Standing Rule No. 17.

Roll Call. Roll call was taken by Secretary, Teresa Hartwig, as follows:

Roll Call of Officers:

	Present/Absent
Lori Chapman, President	Present
Jennifer Elkins, Vice President	Absent
Teresa Hartwig, Secretary	Present
Alicia Hunt, Treasurer	Present
Carol Paige, Parliamentarian	Present

Roll Call of Chapter Representatives and Chapter Count:

	Present/Absent	Chapter Count
CNLP, Karen Niedfelt	Present	4
LLPA, Sandie Smith	Present	5
OLPA, Donna Olson	Present	4
Member-at-Large, Jody Weinmeister	Absent	-
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Total		13

A quorum was established.

Other Chairpersons/Members/Guests Present: Sherry Mitchell, Lynda Henningsen, Sandy Kendall, Lori Ready, Kathy Eidenmiller, and Bonnie Kudron.

Officer Reports:

President: Lori Chapman had no report at this time.

Vice President: Jennifer Elkins was absent and had no report at this time.

Secretary: Teresa Hartwig reported she sent out 11 sympathy cards, to-wit: Carol Sperry for the loss of her husband; Donna Olson for the loss of her father; Mary Baker

for the loss of her mother-in-law; Michelle Dirks for the loss of her father; Jody Weinmeister for the loss of her father; Marcia Jewett for the loss of her mother; Jean Roeder for the loss of her husband; Karen Bortz for the loss of her mother-in-law; Nancy Meyer for the loss of her father; Sheryl Agner for the loss of her husband; Linda Henningsen for the loss of her brother.

Treasurer: Alicia Hunt distributed the Treasurer’s Report. The balance on hand as of September 30, 2017 was \$11,009.83 and the bank balance as of January 19, 2018 was \$9,262.07. Disbursements totaled \$2,411.46 for Chapter Representatives’ Travel, Fall Seminar, Memorials, Officers’ Travel, Scholarships, and Website. It was noted there is one outstanding check in the amount of \$19.22. It was also noted check #1034 does not need to appear on the report as this check has been replaced with check #1064, which has been cashed. This leaves an adjusted balance on hand as of January 19, 2018 of \$9,242.85.

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

Total Membership Count as of 9-30-2017				
Chapter	General	Students	Honorary	Total
CNLP	10	0	5	15
LLPA	50	2	1	53
OLPA	47	3	6	56
MAL	1	0	0	1
Grand Total	108	5	12	125

Lori Ready noted CNP actually has eight full members and five honorary members for a total of 13 total members. However, the roster for the current year remains as updated January 17, 2018. Once members pay their dues, they remain on the roster for the entire year.

Parliamentarian: Carol Page reported the Bylaws and Standing Rules are now on the NLPA website. There was some discussion concerning the correct date for the most recent amended Bylaws and Standing Rules. (Teresa Hartwig subsequently reviewed past minutes and found the most recent date for the amended Bylaws was October 3, 2015, and Standing Rules were last amended on June 26, 2016 with the inclusion of the President’s Award in Standing Rule No. 4).

Committee Reports:

1. **Annual Convention.** Bonnie Kudron and Sherry Mitchell reported on plans for the Annual Convention to be held April 27-29, 2018 at the Holiday Inn Omaha SW and presented a proposed budget. The theme for the convention is, “21 and Legal”. Most of the speakers have been confirmed. Plans are in process regarding the fundraiser, and Bonnie and Sherry shared some of their ideas. Letters will be sent out to solicit funds. More details will be forthcoming. Bonnie noted the budget was based on attendance at previous conventions. Following a

brief discussion, Bonnie then moved to approve the proposed budget. Alicia Hunt seconded the motion, and the motion carried. A block of five rooms have been reserved at the Holiday Inn Omaha SW. Group code for the convention at the hotel is "NLP" and the phone number at the hotel is 402.905.9414. Cost of each room is \$94.00.

2. **Budget.** Please see above information regarding Alicia Hunt's Treasurer's report.
3. **Historian.** Vickie Starr (LLPA) was absent and had no report at this time.
4. **Legal Education.** Position open.
5. **Legal Professional of the Year.** Teresa Hartwig (CNLP) reported information and forms for each chapter's Legal Professional of the Year award were distributed to Laura Cejka (OLPA) and Jennifer Hague LLPA) via email on January 9, 2018. Completed forms are due to Teresa by April 1, 2018 to allow time for the judges to review. Teresa is in the process of selecting the judges at this time.
6. **Nominations and Elections.** Carol Paige (LLPA) reported on behalf of Jennifer Hague that acceptance letters for President have been mailed out and due by January 31, 2018. Submissions for Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer are due to Jennifer by February 9, 2018.
7. **Scholarship.** Alicia Hunt (LLPA) reported on behalf of Jody Weinmeister that scholarship checks have been mailed out and have been cashed. Checks for the scholarship judges have also been cashed. Notices for this year's scholarships have been distributed.
8. **Fall Seminar.** Alicia Hunt distributed the final budget for the Fall Seminar which was hosted by CNLP on September 30, 2017. Total expenses were \$564.69 and total income was \$467.65 resulting in a loss of \$97.04.
9. **Spring Seminar.** Alicia Hunt distributed the proposed budget for the Spring Seminar which is to be hosted by LLPA on March 17, 2018 at the Lincoln Community Foundation. The theme of the seminar will be "NLPA - Going Green" (Recycle, Repurpose, Restore). She noted a flyer is on the website at this time. Speakers will be of an environmental nature and are currently pending. Members were asked to wear green as the seminar will be held on St. Patrick's Day. Alicia Hunt moved to approve the proposed budget. Carol Paige seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
10. **Website/Web Master.** Alicia Hunt will report more information later in this meeting.

11. **Ways and Means.** This had been previously discussed in the Annual Convention report.

12. **SideBar Report.** Teresa Hartwig reported on behalf of Kathy Bass that the next edition of The *SideBar* will be published two weeks after the Spring Seminar. The deadline will be the Friday following the Spring Seminar (March 23, 2018) for all reports from Board members and committee chairs, and as soon as the minutes from that Board meeting can be submitted. The next edition of The *Sidebar* will be published two weeks after the Annual Convention. All chapters should send photos of their events, meetings, etc. for inclusion in the newsletter.

Chapter Reports.

CNLP: Karen Niedfelt reported CNLP awarded our 2017 scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 to Megan Tofflemire of Shelton who planned to major in criminal justice with a Spanish minor at Wayne State. In searching on Wayne State's website for contact information to confirm her enrollment in college, we learned that Wayne State had established an inaugural Rural Law Opportunities Program for the 2017-18 academic year. Five incoming freshmen and three current students made up the class, and Megan was accepted into the program. This program is a partnership between Wayne State College and University of Nebraska College of Law where students are recruited to pursue legal studies and return to their communities, similar to the Health Opportunities Programs. CNLP is delighted.

We met at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center Thursday, October 5 for a tour led by William J. Muldoon, Director. We were shown the large theatre-style classrooms, a gym, commons area, and a huge training room with many strength-building machines. We had hoped to see a "night drill" (cars were running with flashing lights on, but the sky didn't get dark very quickly and we would be late for our dinner reservations if we waited to hear the barking of orders on the megaphones and guns being fired).

We met at the Saddle Club on Thursday, November 2. Lori Moss, Court Reporter, was to have been our speaker but she was ill so six members enjoyed dinner and conversation in conjunction with our business meeting.

For our Christmas party, four CNLP members and their guests attended the Grand Island Little Theater performance of "My Three Angels", which was delightful, and we then had dinner at the Olive Garden.

Our January meeting was held at Perkins and was strictly a business meeting. It was purposely rescheduled for one week later with the hopes that more members would be able to attend for the purpose of discussing the future of Central Nebraska Legal Professionals. Eight members were in attendance – in fairness to those not able to attend, the frigid weather and road conditions were factors. Many thoughts, concerns,

and emotions were expressed among us. Lori will expand on the January meeting in the New Business portion of today's meeting.

For the remainder of the fiscal year:

The February 1 meeting will be at the Grand Island Saddle Club and Duane Burns will be our speaker for the evening.

Bosses' Night will be March 8, also at the Grand Island Saddle Club. Instead of hosting our usual Boss of the Year and Legal Professional of the Year event with hors d'oeuvres and a bar, we felt it would be appropriate to honor our bosses by treating them to dinner in recognition of their continuous support of our group that began as the Grand Island Legal Secretaries Association in 1956 and reorganized as the Central Nebraska Legal Professionals in 1998. CNLP will recognize the dedication our current members have devoted to CNLP this year and every year as well as all members who have received the Legal Professional of the Year designation in the past. We will not be nominating a Boss of the Year or Legal Professional of the Year this year.

Annual Membership Night (our annual tea party) will not be held.

Goldilocks Trials – scheduled for April 24, 25, and 26, 2018 – will be hosted by members of the Grand Island legal community instead of Central Nebraska Legal Professionals. Attorneys Grady Erickson of the Mayer Burns Law Firm and Amber Rowley will be leading this event.

Scholarship – Teresa, as Scholarship chairperson, has sent 37 letters to schools announcing our scholarship, to be judged by a panel of three community leaders of her choosing.

LLPA: Sandie Smith reported LLPA's November General Meeting was held on November 9, 2017, at the US Bank Building. William Olson, partner with Olson, Zalewski, Wynner, LLP, spoke on the "Dark Web". The meeting was hosted by Berry Law Firm; Olson, Zalewski, Wynner; and Anderson, Creager and Wittstruck. On December 14, 2017, they held their annual Christmas party at the home of their member, Deb Thompson. They did not have a general meeting for December. Their January General Meeting was held on January 11, 2018. Ruth Karlsson had a presentation on a program through the Nebraska Prison System called "Released and Restored". This program helps inmates get prepared to be back in society after their release. The meeting was held at Rembolt Ludtke and was hosted by Johnson Flodman and Legal Aide of Nebraska. LLPA will be hosting NLPA's Spring Seminar on Saturday, March 17, 2018. The theme is "NLPA – Going Green" (Recycle-Repurpose-Restore). It will be held at Lincoln Community Foundation.

OLPA: Donna Olson reported that OLPA met on October 18, 2017, for their General Meeting, which was held at the Regency Lodge. Our guest speaker was Mark Weber with the Nebraska Supreme Court Counsel for Discipline. This office investigates

concerns and calls regarding possible violations of the Professional Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics by attorneys. Attorneys are encouraged to use their services when they believe they might have a problem.

On November 15, 2017, our meeting was held at Regency Lodge. Members heard from Patrick McNamara, a sole practitioner, about his Estate Planning practice and tips for dealing with wills and estates.

On December 6, 2017, we had our Jingle and Mingle social gathering at the Embassy Apartments clubhouse. Mr. and Mrs. Claus joined us, played by Cheri Sempek and her husband. Members generously contributed gloves, hats and blankets to the mitten tree with the donations going to the children at Project Harmony.

Our January, 2018 meeting was held on the 17th at Regency Lodge. Mallory Hughes with Dornan, Troia, Howard et al., was our guest speaker. Mallory is a criminal defense attorney as well as a juvenile attorney. She shared with us how she uses paralegals and assistants to help her stay organized in big criminal cases.

In February, we will have Sara English from Mutual of Omaha speak to us about the law and Social Media.

In March we will hold elections and in April we will have our Awards Banquet and Boss Appreciation at Arbor Hall on the 18th.

Our Ways and Means collected \$111.91 with Mary Baker's embroidered clothing and totes project. We collected about \$225 from the sale of Village Inn Pie Cards. We still have a few available so contact Sherry Mitchell if interested.

Bonnie Kudron reported she recently delivered to the Ronald McDonald House 195,750 pop tabs and have now collected a total of 633,000 on behalf of NLPA, so we are well on our way of reaching the million tab goal!

Old Business.

Discussion regarding death of a member. Standing Rule No. 23 regarding memorials was reviewed, to-wit: The Nebraska Legal Professionals Association has adopted the following procedures to acknowledge the death of a member or member's immediate family:

- (a) A \$25.00 memorial will be given by NLPA to a deceased member's immediate family or designated charity upon the member's death;
- (b) A sympathy card from NLPA will be sent at the time of death of a current member's spouse or significant other, child, parent or sibling.

After some discussion it was determined there were no further questions/concerns regarding the Standing Rule.

Survey Outcome. Alicia Hunt distributed the results of the recent survey requesting input on whether to continue the Spring Seminar beginning in 2019. The results indicated 66.67% want to cancel the seminar completely and only have the Fall Seminar and Annual Convention; 16.67% want to keep it as-is (in March); 14.29% want to move the Spring Seminar from March to June; 2.38% want to move the Spring Seminar from March to July. It was noted a total of 42 responses were received. At this time Lori Ready (CNLP) suggested we table any further discussions until after she gives her report regarding the CNLP update.

Using email through website. Alicia Hunt reported some members are using the email function on the NLPA website and emails are being forwarded to attorneys, as well. Members are able to utilize the “All Everyone” button as well as “All Members” button and suggested we set a precedent as to the usage of this email function and possibly set up a “G” mail account instead. At this time Lynda Henningsen stated OLPA has consulted with two different agencies about raising money for their organization and both looked at our website and suggested OLPA have their own website/domain as this might possibly provide more income for their organization. OLPA would like to do something in addition to the NLPA website. Bonnie Kudron stated NLPA is paying for the website and Lynda Henningsen noted the cost for OLPA would be \$225.00 per year for their own website and OLPA feels they could make back that amount in donations. Lynda stated OLPA hasn’t completely decided to go this direction and she will report back to her Board and discuss this issue further. No definitive action was taken at this time.

New Business.

2018 Convention. Please see Bonnie’s and Sherry’s previous report contained in these minutes.

CNLP Update. Lori Ready, President of CNLP, then presented her report as follows:

Currently CNLP has 13 members. Of those members five are honorary members, who are not allowed to be an officer of CNLP or chair a committee. That leaves eight members and of those eight members, three do not regularly attend (two of those live out of town). This leaves five members to do all of the work. We have been talking about what to do for the last several months and brought it up for discussion and a decision was made at our January meeting. We had eight members attend the January meeting. It was unanimous that CNLP will need to dissolve. For those that wish to be involved, they can be a member-at-large and then can still serve as an officer on a State level, and pay the State dues. For those that do not want to be involved as much, they can still attend the Seminars and just pay the higher amount as a non-member of NLPA. Attorney, Duane Burns will facilitate with the dissolution of CNLP. He will speak at our February meeting. The applications for our CNLP scholarship are due back on March 1, 2018. We will review those at our March 8 meeting and are considering giving out two scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each. It just depends on the quantity and

quality of the applications. Instead of doing our normal Boss of the Year and Legal Professional of the Year on March 8, we will be hosting a dinner at the Saddle Club on that date to honor our bosses and to honor our current members of CNLP. We will not have a state nomination for Legal Professional of the Year. After our March meeting, we will have a meeting to complete our responsibilities and decide what to do with our remaining funds. We will follow the guidelines under Article XVI of CNLP's Bylaws. This was a very hard decision to make as our group has been in existence for many years and the majority of the members have been active members of CNLP and NLPA for many years. CNLP's target date for totally dissolving the organization is tentatively set for March 31, 2018, contingent on whether everything can be finalized at that time. This date may need to be extended due to the disbursement of our scholarship(s).

NLPA members in attendance then expressed their sadness that CNLP is dissolving; however, understood why the dissolution was necessary.

Teresa Hartwig then expressed her concern that Article VIII, Section 2 (Other Officers) of the NLPA Bylaws states, "Each nominee shall be an elected officer or member in good standing of a local chapter." As the Bylaw is written this would not allow CNLP members to be considered for a state office. A lengthy discussion then ensued. It was noted according to Article XIX (Amendments), Section 1, that, "These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board present at any annual meeting or Board meeting of the members; provided, the proposed amendment or amendments have been submitted to the parliamentarian at least 60 days prior to the date of such meeting, and to all officers, each chapter representative, and members-at-large at least 30 days prior to such meeting." After further discussion, Alicia Hunt moved to amend the Bylaws and Standing Rules so that members-at-large can serve as state officers. Donna Olson seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Carol Paige will update the Bylaws/Standing Rules to reflect the above-mentioned change.

The Spring Seminar survey was then brought back to the table for discussion. It was noted since the development of CNLP dissolving as well as the fact only 42 members out of 123 total memberships responded; this does not give a legitimate view of how all members wish to proceed with continuing the Spring Seminar or discontinuation of the Spring Seminar. Members were asked to take this discussion back to their respective chapters for further discussion and it will be then be discussed at the next Board meeting following the Spring Seminar on March 17, 2018.

For the Good of the Organization.

Acknowledgements/Celebrations/Care/Concerns. Please see above information contained in Teresa Hartwig's Secretary's report provided in these minutes.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m. The next Board Meeting will be held in Lincoln, Nebraska at the Lincoln Community Foundation on Saturday, March 17, 2018 immediately following the Spring Seminar.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Hartwig, Secretary

On January 29, 2018 Karen Niedfelt moved for approval of the January 20, 2018 Executive Meeting minutes. Donna Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.