

**NEBRASKA LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019
October 13, 2018
Teresa Hartwig, Secretary**

Call to Order. The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Legal Professionals Association was held on Saturday, October 13, 2018, at Creighton University in the Harper Center, 602 N. 20th Street, Omaha, Nebraska. The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by President, Valentina Harris (OLPA).

Valentina Harris (OLPA) welcomed everyone in attendance at the Board Meeting and Teresa Hartwig (MAL) read the Mission Statement and Standing Rule No. 17.

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

Roll Call of Officers:	<u>Present/Absent</u>
Valentina Harris, President	Present
Sheila Anderson, Vice President	Present
Teresa Hartwig, Secretary	Present
Alicia Hunt, Treasurer	Present
Jody Weinmeister, Parliamentarian	Present

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

	<u>Present/Absent</u>	<u>Chapter Count</u>
LLPA –Sandie Smith, PLS	Present	5
OLPA – Doris Crayton	Present	10
Members-at-Large – Teresa Hartwig, Karen Niedfelt, Deb Sweley (Absent), and Jody Weinmeister	Present	3
Total		18

A quorum was established.

Other Chairpersons/Members/Guests Present. Sharon Huber (OLPA), Nadine Ostrow (OLPA), Sherry Mitchell, PLS (OLPA), Bonnie Kudron (OLPA), Carol Sperry (OLPA), Carol Paige (LLPA), Kathy Eidenmiller (LLPA), Jean Roeder (OLPA), Cheri Sempek (OLPA), and Lynda Henningsen (OLPA).

Officer Reports:

President: Valentina Harris (OLPA) thanked everyone for attending the Fall Seminar and thanked OLPA for organizing an amazing legal education opportunity for our members.

Vice President: Sheila Anderson (LLPA) stated NLPA currently has 90 members as follows:

Total Membership Count as of 10/12/2018				
Chapter	General	Students	Honorary	Total
MAL	4	0	0	4
LLPA	41	1	0	42
OLPA	36	2	6	44
Grand Total	81	3	6	90

Secretary: Teresa Hartwig (MAL) noted no cards had been mailed since the last meeting.

Treasurer: Alicia Hunt (LLPA) reviewed the Treasurer's Report. The check register balance as of June 8, 2018 was \$11,065.16 and the check register balance as of October 12, 2018 was \$10,226.13. There were receipts in the amount of \$176.80 and disbursements in the amount of \$1,015.83. It was noted the Treasurer's report will be filed subject to audit.

Parliamentarian: Jody Weinmeister (OLPA) had no report at this time.

Committee Reports:

1. **Fall Seminar.** Valentina Harris (OLPA) gave a preliminary report regarding the cost of the seminar. Room cost was \$25.00; food cost was \$716.48; stipend cost was \$75.00; bringing the total cost to \$816.48. Twenty-eight registrations were received and a donation of \$100.00 is anticipated. There was some discussion on the actual food cost and Valentina will check on the amount and report back at the OLPA General Meeting next week. Everyone agreed it was an excellent Seminar.
2. **Audit.** Members of (LLPA) had no report at this time as they will not meet to perform the audit until just prior to Annual Convention.
3. **Budget.** Please see above report.
4. **Historian.** Vickie Starr (LLPA) was absent and had no report at this time.
5. **Legal Education.** Valentina Harris (OLPA) noted we are still looking for a member to help Lynda Henningsen (OLPA) co-chair this committee. Lynda requested members send her legal education materials for submission in the *Sidebar*.
6. **Legal Professional of the Year.** Vickie Starr (LLPA) was absent and had no report at this time.
7. **Nominations and Elections.** Kathy Eidenmiller (LLPA) agreed to chair this committee and will be contacting members as we move closer to Annual Convention.
8. **Sidebar.** Carol Sperry (OLPA) offered to publish the *Sidebar* in October and requested reports be given to her no later than October 29, 2018. It was noted reports are needed from Board members, Chapter Representatives, and Committee Chairpersons. Lynda Henningsen (OLPA) will publish the *Sidebar* in April, 2019.

9. **Scholarship.** Jody Weinmeister (MAL) stated more details will be forthcoming after the first of the year.
10. **Annual Convention 2019.** Sandie Smith, PLS, (LLPA) stated the committee is working on a theme and more details will be forthcoming. There was some discussion regarding holding the seminar at a different location other than where members will be staying. It was the consensus of the group this would be agreeable to members.
11. **Website/Web Master.** Alicia Hunt (LLPA) reported she added the Fall Seminar information/registration materials.
12. **Ways & Means.** Sandie Smith, PLS, (LLPA) stated the committee is working on this project and more details will be forthcoming.

Chapter Reports:

LLPA: Sandie Smith, PLS, (LLPA) reported LLPA met June 14, 2018 for their Summer Social. They gathered at James Arthur Vineyard Tasting Room at the From Nebraska Gift Store. They sampled wine and enjoyed snacks provided by Latimer Reporting and also enjoyed going through the From Nebraska Gift Store.

On July 12, 2018, they held their monthly general meeting at Rembolt Ludtke. Torrey Gerdes, an attorney with Baylor Evnen, spoke on the #MeToo #Times Up Movement in the Workplace.

The August meeting was held at the Lincoln Community Foundation Building on August 9, 2018. Liz Neely, Executive Director, and Chris Aupperle with the Nebraska State Bar Association, spoke on the Nebraska Lawyers Assistance Program and also new things happening with the Bar Association. The meeting was hosted by Mattson Ricketts Law Firm and the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court.

The September meeting was held at the Lincoln Community Foundation Building on September 13, 2018. A representative from Second Chance Pup spoke about their program with inmates at the Nebraska State Penitentiary. Inmates are allowed to train dogs that have been in animal shelters. These dogs are then adopted. The meeting was hosted by Rembolt Ludtke.

The October meeting was held on October 11, 2018, at Woods & Aitken. The speaker was Inspector Jeff Urkevich with the Lincoln Police Department. Inspector Urkevich spoke about his position with the Fugitive Task Force. Members had a drawing for their scholarship raffle.

OLPA: Doris Crayton (OLPA) reported they met on June 16, 2018 for their Social Activity at the beautiful Joslyn Art Museum. The weather was ideal for a summer outing that was hot outside and cool inside. Each of the members walked through the museum in different areas at their own leisure. It was a nice adventure. The museum was crowded with several groups participating in different venues. They were given a free lunch which was unexpected and very delicious. Overall, this was a great outing.

The September General Meeting was held at the Pizza West on September 19, 2018. Guest speaker was The Honorable Marlon A. Polk, District Judge of Douglas County. Judge Polk spoke about the court system process in each individual county in

Nebraska. The group then moved into a question/answer format in which excellent questions were raised and outstanding answers were received.

The next meeting will be held on October 17, 2018, and the guest speaker will be Scott Mertz, an Omaha managing attorney, with the Legal Aid of Nebraska. Mr. Mertz will walk members through specific problems faced by clients and ways in which attorneys address these problems. He will also provide an overview of how Legal Aid delivers legal assistance across the state.

OLPA committee members are working on the details for the OLPA Holiday Party to be held December 5, 2018. Several items have been taken care of, such as the location; however, other areas are still in the planning stages.

CNLP: Teresa Hartwig (MAL) reported CNLP members will be meeting October 18, 2018, to finalize details of their dissolution. More details will be reported at the next Board Meeting.

Old Business:

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes. It was noted the minutes of the June 9, 2018, Board Meeting were approved via email on June 22, 2018 and are on the website.

New Business:

January 19, 2019 Board Meeting. It was decided to conduct the January 19, 2019, meeting via web conferencing. Valentina will look into alternative web conferencing other than "Go to Meeting".

Out-of-State Membership. Alicia Hunt (LLPA) stated it is not indicated in the Standing Rules or Bylaws whether members need to reside in the State of Nebraska. It was noted if an out-of-state individual wishes to join NLPA they could join as a Member-at-Large. It was stated that as long as their membership follows our Mission Statement, we would be agreeable with their affiliation; however, there would need to be some discussion as to whether an out-of-state MAL would be eligible for awards, chair committees, or receive mileage.

Cap on Mileage Cost. There was some discussion as to whether a cap on mileage reimbursement should be initiated. It was noted that at one time the most mileage reimbursement a member could receive was \$100.00. It was suggested a committee be formed to review different options and present the findings at a later meeting. The options could be voted on at the Annual Convention. After some discussion it was decided an ad hoc committee consisting of Alicia Hunt, Doris Crayton, and Sandie Smith, PLS, be formed. They will take this matter to their respective chapters and report back to the Board. Sheila Anderson will reach out to the Members-at-Large for their input.

Webcasting Legal Educational Meetings Proposal. This matter had been previously discussed at the June 9, 2018 Board Meeting and members were asked to take information presented at the meeting back to their respective chapters and report back at today's meeting. It was noted LLPA does not wish to pursue this matter at this time.

Committee Vacancies. It was noted co-chairpersons are needed for the Legal Education and Scholarship committees at this time.

State Association Preservation Ad Hoc Committee. It was stated no committee is necessary as this matter will be considered part of Sheila Anderson's (LLPA) role as Vice President.

OLPA Website. Lynda Henningsen (OLPA) asked this matter be placed on today's Agenda as a New Business item. She stated OLPA would like to have their own website and link it to the NLPA website. Approximate cost to OLPA would be \$106.00 per year. OLPA members feel this would be more beneficial and advantageous for their chapter.

For the Good of the Organization.

1. **Acknowledgements/Celebrations.** It was reported that Sharon Huber (OLPA) recently retired and congratulatory greetings were bestowed upon her. Happy Birthday accolades were also extended to Sharon as her birthday is tomorrow.
2. **Care/Concerns.** Members extended well wishes to Alicia Hunt as she is currently experiencing health issues.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m. The next Board Meeting will be held via web conferencing on Saturday, January 19, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Hartwig, Secretary

On October 17, 2018, Karen Niedfelt moved via email to approve the October 13, 2018, Board minutes. Doris Crayton seconded the motion. Motion carried.