

**NEBRASKA LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION  
MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019  
March 2, 2019  
Teresa Hartwig, Secretary**

**Call to Order.** The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Legal Professionals Association was held on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at Chances “R”, York Nebraska, and via Google Hangouts Meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. (CST) by President, Valentina Harris (OLPA).

Valentina Harris (OLPA) welcomed everyone in attendance to 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:

<b>Roll Call of Officers:</b>	<b><u>Present/Absent</u></b>
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:**

	<b><u>Present/Absent</u></b>	<b><u>Chapter Count</u></b>
LLPA –Kathy Eidenmiller (Pro-Tem)	Present	3
OLPA – Nadine Ostrow (Pro-Tem)	Present	9
Members-at-Large – Teresa Hartwig, Karen Niedfelt, Deb Sweley (Absent), and Jody Weinmeister	Present	<u>3</u>
Total		15

A quorum was established.

**Other Chairpersons/Members/Guests Present.** Sherry Mitchell, PLS, (OLPA), Bonnie Kudron (OLPA), Jean Roeder (OLPA), Sharon Huber (OLPA), Mary Baker (OLPA), Doris Crayton (OLPA), Kathy Eidenmiller (LLPA), Nadine Ostrow (OLPA), Karen Niedfelt (MAL), and Lynda Henningsen (OLPA).

**Officer Reports:**

**President:** Valentina Harris (OLPA) noted she did not have anything new to report other than what will be discussed later in this meeting.

**Vice President:** Sheila Anderson (LLPA) stated NLPA currently has 94 members as follows:

Total Membership Count as of 03/01/2019				
Chapter	General	Students	Honorary	Total
MAL	4	0	0	4
LLPA	42	1	0	43
OLPA	37	4	6	47
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>94</b>

**Secretary:** Teresa Hartwig (MAL) noted no cards were sent out since the January 19, 2019 meeting.

**Treasurer:** Alicia Hunt (LLPA) reviewed the Treasurer's Report. The check register balance as of January 18, 2019 was \$8,597.83 and the check register balance as of March 1, 2019 was \$8,505.97. There were receipts in the amount of \$.39 and disbursements in the amount of \$92.25. It was noted the Treasurer's report will be filed subject to audit.

**Parliamentarian:** Jody Weinmeister (MAL) was present and noted Standing Rule 7 has been updated regarding reimbursement of mileage expenses. Jody will email the updated Standing Rule 7 to members.

**President-Elect Election.** Kathy Eidenmiller (LLPA) stated she received three nominations for President. Lynda Henningsen (OLPA) accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor. Lynda Henningsen was then elected President of NLPA.

### **Committee Reports:**

- 1. Annual Convention.** Kathy Eidenmiller (LLPA), reported the convention will be held April 26, 27, and 28, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Lincoln, Nebraska. She noted the Hilton is honoring the prices as of two years ago when the convention took place at the Hilton. The theme of the convention is "Earth, Wind, & Fire". The social gathering will be held Friday evening from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday's registration will begin at 8:45 a.m. with the Welcome at 9:15 a.m. Currently, there are three confirmed speakers. The Annual Meeting will begin around 2:00 p.m. The social hour, banquet, and installation of officers will be held that evening. A "Dessert Dash" will be held after dinner, which will be an auction of donated desserts. The first Board Meeting will be held on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. As soon as the final speaker is confirmed, the registration form will be on the website. Sandie Smith, PLS, (LLPA) and Rae Wulf (LLPA) are working on the convention booklet.
- 2. Historian.** Vickie Starr (LLPA) was absent and had no report at this time.
- 3. Legal Education.** This position is vacant at this time.

4. **Legal Professional of the Year.** Vickie Starr (LLPA) was absent and had no report at this time.
5. **Nominations and Elections.** Kathy Eidenmiller (LLPA) reported she received 16 nominations for officers. Nominated members for Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer have until March 14, 2019, to respond to the nominations, and the elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on April 27.
6. **Publications.** This position is vacant at this time; however, Valentina Harris (OLPA) stated she knows of interns that are interested in working on the *SideBar*. Lynda Henningsen (OLPA) will provide the legal education for the *SideBar*.
7. **Scholarship.** Jody Weinmeister (MAL) stated she has received three qualified scholarship applications as of this date. She has three judges from the panhandle area and will submit the qualified applications to the judges on March 31, 2019.
8. **Ways & Means.** Kathy Eidenmiller reported on behalf of Tina Scully that the Ways and Means project will be a 50/50 Raffle, whereby, one lucky winner gets 50% of the cash pot, and the remaining proceeds will go to benefit the NLPA scholarship fund. Tickets are \$5.00 for one ticket or three tickets for \$10.00. Chapter Representatives will distribute the raffle tickets to members and Members-At-Large will be given their tickets at today's meeting. Red tickets will be used again this year. It was noted the committee feels it is not necessary to keep track of the tickets received and sold by members like we have done in the past due to the fact no one will be receiving an incentive prize this year.
9. **Website/Web Master.** Alicia Hunt (LLPA) stated we will be using the basic package with Wix. She has completed the first page and will keep all of the same information as we had before. No payments have been made to Wix at this time. The website is coming along and the main page is viewable. She will send the link to members.

It was noted at 10:42 a.m. Bonnie Kudron (OLPA) disconnected from the meeting.

### **Chapter Reports:**

**LLPA:** Kathy Eidenmiller (Pro-Tem) reported on behalf of Sandie Smith, PLS, (LLPA) regarding LLPA events. On February 1, 2019, our chapter held its first "Glug & Gab" after work at the Starlight Lounge. We would like to do this the first Friday of each month for a casual way for our members and guests to get together. Our next "Glug & Gab will be on Friday, March 1, 2019, at McKinney's Irish Pub.

We did something a little different for our February meeting which was held on Valentine's Day. Wolfe Snowden hosted the meeting at noon. Those in attendance made Valentine's Day cards which were then delivered that evening to the residents of the Waverly Care Center.

On the week-end of February 15, 16, and 17, five of our members volunteered to help with the Mock Trial Competition held in Lincoln, Nebraska. Our members helped check people in and were also witnesses for the mock trials. This competition was part of the 2019 National Trial Competition.

Our March General Meeting will be held on March 14, 2019, and will be our annual election meeting.

**OLPA:** Nadine Ostrow (Pro-Tem), reported on behalf of Doris Crayton regarding OLPA events. On January 16, 2019, Kenny Jacobs of Jacobs Alexander Law Office spoke to us on DWI/DUI and driving while “buzzed”.

Our February 20, 2019, speakers were Margo Riekes, Communications Director, and Jeff Niebaum, Senior Communications Specialist, both with the Better Business Bureau. They spoke particularly about Internet scams and how to detect a phishing e-mail.

We will be holding our election of officers at our March 20, 2019 meeting.

OLPA is currently seeking nominations for our Boss of the Year award and has finished accepting nominations for Legal Professional of the Year award. The award recipients will be presented their respective honors at our Annual Awards & Installation Banquet on April 17, 2019, at Arbor Hall. We will also be naming our annual scholarship winners at the Banquet. Our Master of Ceremonies will be Alex Wolf of Koley Jessen P.C., L.L.O. The Banquet will recognize this past year’s officers and welcome our new officers.

In conjunction with Law Day, OLPA members Donna Olson and Jean Roeder are working on the Law Day Essay Contest in collaboration with the OBA. The theme this year is “Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society.” The Law Day luncheon will be held on May 1, 2019, at the Regency Marriott.

Our fund raiser for our Scholarship was Village Inn pies and RADA cutlery.

### **Old Business:**

**Approval of Board Meeting Minutes.** It was noted the minutes of the January 19, 2019, Board Meeting were approved via email on January 29, 2019, and are on the website.

**Membership Poll Update.** Kathy Eidenmiller (LLPA) reported one-third of our members have responded to her email regarding whether to disband NLPA. She will re-send the email to the members that haven’t responded. A final report will be submitted by Kathy at the Annual Convention meeting. It was noted that if NLPA were to disband, LLPA and OLPA will still remain as chapters as they are legally separate entities from NLPA.

### **New Business:**

**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Proposal.** Valentina Harris (OLPA) stated diversity, equity and inclusion are very powerful words and perhaps we should consider including them in the NLPA Mission Statement. She noted the American Bar Association has been working on this matter for many years. Valentina noted if we were to include these words in our Mission Statement it could result in potential and current members feeling more welcome and comfortable in our organization. Valentina will send out more information regarding this proposal.

**For the Good of the Organization.**

1. **Acknowledgements/Celebrations.** There were no new announcements.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m. The next Annual Convention Board meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, Lincoln, Nebraska, at approximately 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 27, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa Hartwig".

Teresa Hartwig, Secretary

On March 11, 2019, Kathy Eidenmiller (LLPA), Pro-Tem, moved for approval of the March 2, 2019 Board minutes. Jody Weinmeister seconded the motion. Motion carried.