



NEBRASKA LEGAL PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the Board Meeting
April 28, 2019
Alicia Hunt, Secretary

Call to Order/Welcome: The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Legal Professionals Association was called to order by the President, Lynda Henningsen, at 9:07am on Sunday, April 28, 2019, at Hilton Garden Inn, 801 R Street, Lincoln, NE in the Husker Conference Room.

Lynda Henningsen (OLPA) welcomed everyone in attendance to the Board Meeting and Alicia Hunt read the Standing Rule 17 and Mission Statement.

Roll Call. Roll call was taken by President, Lynda Henningsen, as follows:

Roll Call of Officers:

	<u>Present/Absent:</u>
Lynda Henningsen, President	Present
Shirley Simmonds, ALS, Vice President	Present
Alicia Hunt, Secretary	Present
Sheila Anderson, Treasurer	Present
Teresa Hartwig, Parliamentarian	Absent

Lynda Henningsen previously checked with Teresa Hartwig about serving as Parliamentarian, Teresa agreed to serve. Jody Weinmeister moved that Teresa Hartwig be approved as Parliamentarian, Cherie Sempek seconded the motion; motion carried. Jean Roeder moved that Cherie Sempek be the acting Parliamentarian for this meeting, Bonnie Kudron seconded the motion; motion carried.

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

	<u>Present/Absent:</u>	<u>Chapter Count:</u>
LLPA - Sheila Anderson, pro tem	Present	2
OLPA - Sherry Mitchell	Present	8
Members-at-Large - Shirley Simmonds, ALS	Present	<u>2</u>
TOTAL		12

A quorum was established.

Other Chairpersons/Members/Guests Present: Bonnie Kudron (OLPA), Sharon Huber (OLPA), Cherie Sempek (OLPA), Nadine Ostrow (OLPA), Jean Roeder (OLPA), Karen Niedfelt (MaL), and Jody Weinmeister (MaL).

Officer Reports:

President: Lynda Henningsen (OLPA) – “RE” is our theme for this year: Re-program, re-evaluate, re-engage, rejuvenate, renew, and rebuild.

Vice President: Shirley Simmonds, ALS (OLPA) – wants a list of all members’ email addresses so she can say hello to all members and introduce herself. There was discussion on protocol for NLPA VP contacting members, when it’s normally the local chapters’ VP role; but it’s a re-evaluation/rejuvenate/re-define year so Shirley will send out an email but run it by Lynda (NLPA President) prior to sending anything out.

Secretary: Alicia Hunt (LLPA) – Alicia informed everyone this meeting is being recorded to help with the preparation of the minutes.

Treasurer: Sheila Anderson (LLPA) – read the report submitted by Alicia Hunt for the financial activity from April 1, 2019 through April 26, 2019. The bank balance and checkbook balance both match at \$9,082.77 with a total in receipts of \$1,148.32 and disbursements of \$306.05. Clarification was made on the LPOTY expense, that it includes the award and \$75 in gift cards to judges.

Total Members as of April 26, 2019:

LLPA	0 student	0 honorary	23 full	23 total members
OLPA	0 student	6 honorary	20 full	26 total members
MAL	0 student	0 honorary	4 full	4 total members
NLPA	0 student	6 honorary	47 full	53 total members

Parliamentarian: Teresa Hartwig (MaL), not present.

Committee Reports:

Lynda has not yet asked anyone to continue or serve but will do so this month.

1. **Annual Convention 2019:** Congratulations Rae and committee on a great 2019 convention. 24 people signed up for the seminar portion, 22 attended. 26 people signed up for the banquet portion, 26 attended. There will be a full report later as no expense receipts have been turned in at this point.
2. **Annual Convention 2020:** OLPA – it was suggested we trade location for convention and seminars, but have both chapters help with the burden of convention.
3. **Audit Committee:** Kathy Eidenmiller & Alicia Hunt – no report
4. **Historian:** Will ask Vickie Starr to chair again.
5. **Legal Education:** We need to think about the value of it, the number of times it’s published, and what’s put into it.
6. **LPOTY:** Shannon Draper – not present
7. **Nominations & Elections:** Will ask Kathy Eidenmiller to chair again.

8. **Publications/Side Bar:** Same as Legal Education, need to re-evaluate.
9. **Scholarship:** Jody Weinmeister – there was discussion on the benefit of having a state scholarship vs. the local chapters’ scholarships. Jody will send scholarship information this year to local schools in Grand Island and mock trial judges.
10. **Seminar, Fall:** LLPA – potential dates: September 21, October 12, or October 19
11. **Ways & Means:** OLPA
12. **Website/Webmaster:** Alicia Hunt – we will keep Wild Apricot going until Wix is fully functional. Wild Apricot is \$92.25 per month.

Chapter Reports: See Convention booklet. Lynda will read and give ideas for new changes.

Old Business

1. **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes** – will happen via email later this week.
2. **Other** – Lynda thanks Val for serving for one year. The heartfelt commitment is greatly appreciated, especially in transition.

New Business

1. **Committee Assignments** – *(see previous comments)*
2. **Calendar for Term** – Lynda would like to try a GoToMeeting at one of them
 - a. **June** – June 1st in York, place tbd
 - b. **Fall Seminar** – September 21, October 12, or October 19 in Lincoln
 - c. **January** – *not discussed*
 - d. **March** – *not discussed*
 - e. **April/Convention** – in Omaha
3. **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement** – *see attachment* it’s recommended we use the same wording across the board (all chapters and NLPA). We need to vote on the change and which version needs to go in (and where.) Lynda will send this to Teresa, Parliamentarian, (and the “Educational Seminar and Annual Meeting” v. “Convention” discussion) and have her suggest something at the June meeting.
4. **Dues** – currently all full members pay \$25 each to the state. Some options were discussed on whether to reduce state dues to \$10 per person or waive all state dues for this year and how would we get what’s already been paid back to members. Nadine Ostrow moved we waive state dues for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, Bonnie Kudron seconded; motion carried. Jean Roeder moved that NLPA refund the chapters and Members-at-Large on all dues that have already been paid, Bonnie Kudron seconded; motion carried.
5. **Other/Contact** – we need lots of communication this year. The call in January was bad. If we use GoToMeeting, you can see documents. As with any software, there’s a learning curve. There’s a sale for GoToMeeting through the end of April for \$14/month for a one-year contract. 150 people can be registered and there’s a limit of one meeting at a time. Alicia Hunt moved to approve the purchase of GoToMeeting for \$14 per month for one year, Jody Weinmeister seconded; motion carried.
6. **Membership** – Jody Weinmeister moved that \$200 be given to each chapter for help with membership drives (none to Members-at-Large at this point), Cherie Sempek seconded; motion carried.

For the Good of the Organization

1. **Acknowledgements/Celebrations** –Lynda Henningsen is winning a public service award from the Omaha Bar Association.
2. **Care/Concerns:**
 - a. Donna Birkby's (OLPA) mother passed away this weekend, we need to send a sympathy card to her.
 - b. Tim Kielty's (Shirley Simmonds's boss) brother passed away. Tim has been a past supporter of OLPA's scholarship.
 - c. Jody Weinmeister asked for prayers for her sister; she has breast cancer and isn't doing well.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:33am. The next Board Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 1, 2019 in York at a time and location tbd.



Alicia Hunt, Secretary

On May 6, 2019 Shirley Simmonds (OLPA) moved via email to approve the April 28, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes. Sheila Anderson (LLPA) seconded the motion; motion carried.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION POLICY

The **Omaha** Legal Professionals Association acknowledges a diverse, inclusive, and equitable association is one where all members and guests, whatever their gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation or identity, education or disability, feel valued and respected. We are committed to a nondiscriminatory approach and providing equal access to our legal educational opportunities for all and participation in our committees and executive board. We respect and value diverse life experiences and heritages and ensure that all voices are valued and heard.

We are committed to modeling diversity and inclusion for the entire legal field, and to maintaining an inclusive environment with equitable treatment for all.

To provide informed, authentic leadership for cultural equity, **OLPA** strives to:

- See diversity, inclusion, and equity as connected to our mission and critical to ensure the well-being of our members and the legal communities we serve.
- Acknowledge and dismantle any inequities within our policies, systems, programs, and services, and continually update and report organization progress.
- Explore potential underlying, unquestioned assumptions that interfere with inclusiveness.
- Advocate for and support board-level thinking about how systemic inequities impact our association's work, and how best to address that in a way that is consistent with our mission.
- Help to challenge assumptions about what it takes to be a strong leader in our association, and who is well-positioned to provide leadership.
- Practice and encourage transparent communication in all interactions.
- Commit time and resources to expand more diverse leadership within our board, membership and committees.
- Lead with respect and tolerance. We expect all members to embrace this notion and to express it in their interactions and through everyday practices.

OLPA abides by the following action items to help promote diversity, equity and inclusion in our association:

- Pursue cultural competency throughout our association by creating substantive learning opportunities and formal, transparent policies.
- Generate and aggregate quantitative and qualitative research related to equity to make incremental, measurable progress toward the visibility of our diversity, inclusion, and equity efforts.
- Improve our cultural leadership pipeline by creating and supporting programs and policies that foster leadership that reflects the diversity of American society.
- Pool resources and expand offerings for underrepresented constituents by connecting with other legal organizations committed to diversity and inclusion efforts.

- Implement education on diversity, inclusion, and equity to provide information and resources internally, and to members, our communities, and the legal community.
- Develop a system for being more intentional and conscious of bias during the membership, nomination and election processes.
- Advocate for public and private-sector policy that promotes diversity, inclusion, and equity. Challenge systems and policies that create inequity, oppression and disparity.