



## **Minutes for the General Membership and Board Meeting Held by Zoom November 9, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by President Brian Deiderick. Other Directors and Officers participating were: Kim Makoul, Julia Burke, Charles Pascal, Nicole Spring, Stephen Greenwald, Carrie Allman, Chris Tallarico, and David Crowley.

The following offices were represented at the meeting: Allegheny, Armstrong, Blair, Bucks, Carbon, Centre, Columbia, Delaware, Erie, Greene, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montgomery, Tioga, and York.

- I. Report of the Nominating Committee & Election: Mr. Crowley presented the written report of the nominating committee. Officers for 2020-2021 are Brian Deiderick (Lebanon), President, Charles Pascal (Armstrong), Vice President, Julia Burke (Blair), Treasurer, Chris Welsh (Delaware), Assistant Treasurer, David Crowley (Centre), Secretary, Carrie Allman (Montgomery), Assistant Secretary. Members standing for reelection for a 2 year term were: Mr. Ging, Mr. Schenker, Ms. Spring, Mr. Tallarico. New members joining the Board for a 2 year term were: Andrea Janetti (Bucks), Jon Munoz (Allegheny), Greg Nestor (Montgomery), Nicole Sloane (Erie) and Elizabeth Wood (Columbia). There were no nominations from the floor. On motion of Ms. Makoul seconded by Ms. Allman, the ballot was closed and the slate unanimously elected. Mr. Karl, and Mr. Muller. And Mr. Greenwald continue on the Board. Past President Glenn Welsh remains on the Board *ex officio* until 2022 and Past President Makoul remains on the Board *ex officio* until 2025.
- II. Minutes from the March 11, 2021 Board meeting and September 25, 2020 General Membership and Board meeting were unanimously approved on the motion of President Deiderick seconded by Ms. Allman.
- III. Treasurer's Report: Ms. Burke and Executive Director Jacobson presented an oral report of our finances. Dues have been collected from all counties save one and that check is purportedly in the Mail. In addition to dues the association receives grant funding in an amount of nearly \$275,000 which can only be use to reimburse us for allowable training expenses (no food or beverage) and salary and benefits for the Executive Director of Training. We have reapplied for that grant ( 2 years, up to \$550,000 overall) The

Criminal Justice Advisory Committee of PCCD meets on November 10, 2021 to discuss the applications (this time it is a competitive grant application process) and a vote of PCCD will occur on December 10, 2021. The IRS has our application for reinstatement of our tax exemption status. By December 9<sup>th</sup> we should hear whether they need more information from us or not. We have \$102,866.52 in our bank accounts. On Motion of Ms. Spring seconded by Mr. Crowley the Treasurer's report was approved.

IV. Other Reports:

- a. Executive Director of Training: Ms. Jacobson reported that we have conducted 17 separate trainings in 2021 for more than 600 public defenders. Our web site is up and running with training materials accessible by the membership. We are running 5 listserves connecting 634 public defenders. In addition to our own trainings we have provided scholarships to 3 outside trainings.
- b. Policy Committee: Ms. Jacobson reported that we have signed onto 3 amicus briefs this year and given our input on 21 pieces of legislation.
- c. Funding Committee: Ms. Jacobson reported that we have been in discussions with the general assembly concerning public defender funding. There is a reluctance to provide funding directly to the counties. We are currently discussing the establishment of an indigent defense commission to establish objective standards and provide funding to counties to permit them to meet those standards.

V. Old Business: There was no old business

VI. New business:

- a. Title Change: On motion made by President Deiderick and seconded by Ms. Morris (Tioga) the Association changed Ms. Jacobson's title from Executive Director of Training to Executive Director.
- b. Quarterly Meetings: There being a consensus of those in attendance that there is value in the Board meeting by zoom on a quarterly basis, President Deiderick will send a list of proposed dates to the secretary for meetings in 2022.
- c. By-Laws Revision: President Deiderick announced that we need volunteers to look at the bylaws and bring them further into the 20<sup>th</sup> century to permit electronic meetings and voting. Mr. Crowley offered to forward the bylaws with proposed changes that he and Mr. Muller had discussed when they chaired and co-chaired that committee in the past, He observed that this specific task was undoubtedly better suited to newer members.
- d. Merchandise: We had a general discussion of updating the association logo and self-promotion with merchandise. Chris Welsh made the excellent suggestion of creating

- an annual newsletter of accomplishments for dissemination to allied stakeholders.
- e. Three things: President Deiderick challenged each member present to submit to him a list of 3 things we should accomplish in 2022.
  - f. Future Trainings: We have moved the Death Penalty Bring Your Own Case in Philadelphia from this month to the end of March. Hopefully our other trainings will also be able to be held in person rather than by zoom. We are in discussions with Dickinson Law School for the New Public Defender and Trial Skills programs. We are planning a regional Sex Offense training for somewhere in the southwest corner of the state (Butler or Cranberry Township).
  - g. Executive Director Initiatives: Ms. Jacobson announced a plan to reach out to and connect with 2 particular groups of our defender populations (defenders of color and new chiefs) to provide a monthly or periodic forum for support and discussion.
  - h. 2021 Awards: There will be no Gideon Award presented in 2021. On motion made by Chris Welsh and seconded by Ms. Wood, the Board approved the creation of 2 new awards. The awards would include a cash gift of \$250 to the recipients. The first award would be for defenders with less than 3 years experience and honor Fred "Rico" Goodman, our prior training director. The other would be for a defender of 3 to 7 years of service and honor our current secretary. By that motion the Board authorized the Executive Director to enlist a committee to quickly identify recipient/recipients for each award and an expenditure this year of up to \$1000.

There being no further business, on motion of Ms. Makoul seconded by Ms. Sloane and approved by unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

s/ David Crowley, Secretary