

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING  
Thursday, April 16, 2026  
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm  
Live with remote option  
**Meeting Minutes**

Present for all or part of the meeting:

**Board Members:**

President Derek Lick, President Elect Robert Lucic, Vice President Sarah Mattson Dustin, Past President Kate Mahan, Oliver Bloom, Gar Chiang, Steven Dutton, Jimmy Eager, Caroline Epperson, Kristin Fields, Nikolas Frye, Treasurer Geoffrey Gallagher, Chrissy Hanisco, Kyle Robidas, Barry Schuster, Secretary Cathy Shanellaris, James Shepard, Charla Stevens, William Woodbury.

**NHBA Staff:** Sarah Blodgett, Debbie Hawkins, Vince O'Brien, Caitlin Dow, Jennifer McManus, Holly Chandler

**NHSC Liaison:** Justice Patrick Donovan

**ABA Delegates:** Mike Iacopino, Lyndsay Robinson

A. Call to Order Derek Lick

President Lick called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

He announced the results of the one contested seat of the recent Board of Governors election that concluded yesterday, Bill Woodbury, who prevailed for the Belknap County. Also winning re-election were incumbent County Governors Jake Crabbs, Carroll County; and Jimmy Eager, Sullivan County. Strafford County Governor Matthew Stachowske was unable to submit a signed petition by the deadline, so he was not on the ballot. The Board will be asked to reappoint him at the May board meeting. Kyle Robidas, outgoing Hillsborough North Governor termed out of that seat, so ran for a vacant Governor at Large seat and prevailed. Two new members won election, Ryan Correia for the Hillsborough South County seat, and Stephani Roundy Knights for the other open Governor at Large seat. There were no petitions submitted for the Vice President seat, and the vacant Hillsborough North seat. Jane Young has agreed to serve as Vice President, and we will be seeking a member to fill the Hillsborough North seat. It is expected that the Board will appoint members to these two seats in addition to Matthew Stachowske to the Strafford County seat at their May meeting.

**REGULAR BUSINESS – CONSENT ITEMS**

B. Membership Status Changes Jennifer McManus

- C. Minutes of February 19, 2026 Meeting  
Minutes of March 19, 2026 Meeting

Catherine Shanellaris

**Action**

On motion to adopt the consent agenda. Passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS**

- D. Special Committee on Attorney Wellness Charter (tabled in March) – **ACTION ITEM**

Executive Director Sarah Blodgett stated that Committee Chair Charla Stevens and the committee had been working on this charge. We tabled the action item last month as Chair Stevens needed to leave the meeting before the item was discussed.

Chair Stevens spoke about the purpose of putting together the charter for the committee. The committee was struggling earlier in the year and felt there was a lack of clarity about their charge from the Board. They are seeking clarity about their role. The Board has a short version of the charter composed by the committee, as well as one that was written by Executive Director Blodgett which formatted it correctly for NHBA purposes. She states it is a good representation of what their role is – writing articles for the Bar News and working on CLEs. Chair Stevens stated that the committee supports Director Blodgett’s proposal. There are two minor added changes to the proposed charge; designating someone from the NH LAP to serve on the committee and substituting the term substance use disorder for the references to substance use and substance abuse in the text of the policy.

There was a discussion regarding what is envisioned around CLE and if credit can be awarded for these offerings. Some states require programming in this area to be taken by attorneys. Professional Development Director Vince O’Brien responded and noted that there is a subcommittee working on this. He said the program they are looking at won’t have any problems being accepted for credit. It deals specifically with boundary skills, ethical rules when communicating with clients, institutions, and rule-based constraints. It will deal with concrete tools, not general wellness issues. NH LAP Program Director Jill O’Neil will be involved

There was discussion about who makes the decision about what qualifies for credit. Director O’Brien discussed NHSC Rule 53 which governs this. The NHMCLE Board decides. Reporting by attorneys is voluntary, and there are random audits performed on submissions to justify why the course qualified for credit. The onus is placed on the attendee to state why they think it qualifies. All the Bar’s CLEs typically qualify for credit. New Hampshire doesn’t have rules that mandate CLE Wellness education. The Wellness Committee’s proposed program can qualify under as regular education under Rule 53, but not for ethics credit under Rule 53.

**ACTION**

On motion to accept the charge with changes – include NHLAP in membership on committee, and to use either substance use disorder or substance misuse. Passed unanimously.

E. Future Annual Meeting Plans – **ACTION ITEM**

Sarah Blodgett

Executive Director Blodgett spoke about her memo proposing that the NHBA transition to resort-based annual meetings on a quinquennial (every 5 year) basis. The Board has discussed this for some time. The net cost is high for the attendance of a few members. She recommends that we move the resort based meeting to every 5 years, with the next one being in 2030 – and thereafter would hold the meetings at a resort on years ending in 0 and 5. She stated we would like to reimagine how the annual meeting looks so it would have broader appeal to our members. It would be an easier lift financially and would be better attended she believes.

The figures presented in her memo do not include the cost of staff time. There was discussion about the challenges of the resort based meetings and thoughts for the future about how to provide events that would be most beneficial to members. Some thought that every 5 years may not even make sense based on these costs. We need to look at what makes the annual meeting attractive. It was pointed out that an event that doesn't include a CLE is less attractive. Many expressed the thought that this is a good decision, and we are responding to what our members are telling us. Some expressed the opinion that if members don't miss the resort based meeting over the next few years, then we shouldn't plan to do it again in the future. There was discussion about promotion and marketing efforts in the past. In the past, large firms covered the expense, so many more attorneys attended. This no longer happens.

The Board discussed our financial responsibility to members. It was suggested that we promote a possible resort based meeting for years in advance. Director Blodgett notes we will bring some annual meeting proposals to the Board as we move forward.

President Elect Bob Lucic added that he is also sad to lose this tradition. He feels it is important to keep it on a schedule and that every 5 years is the right interval. He notes that the people that do go are really committed to the Bar Association, so it is important to have an event that is that special to keep those people as close as we can and let them know we appreciate their service. He thinks this is a good compromise. There was a discussion about why there are two meetings called for in the NHBA Constitution. It is believed those are more about conducting the business of the Bar Association.

It was also suggested that we look at holding the meeting on weekdays rather than weekends. Young parents don't want to give up their leisure time on the weekends. There were discussions about possible formats for future Annual Meetings.

**ACTION**

On motion to plan a five year rotation of Annual Meeting per Director Blodgett's memo. The next resort based meeting would be in 2030. Passed unanimously.

- F. Ethics Proposed Rule Change – Rule 1.17 - Sale of a Firm or Practice Area by a Non-Retiring Attorney – **ACTION ITEM** Geoff Gallgher, Vice-Chair Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee Vice Chair Geoff Gallgher spoke about the proposed rule change redline copy presented to the Board. This is a suggested revision to Rule 1.17. This revision has been in process for several years. He spoke about the original impetus of the committee's work on this. Prior to this rule an attorney could not sell their practice at all. The original 1.17 was intended to fix this. If you are a solo you fall under this, but if a member of a firm, other attorneys can take your clients. There was discussion about whether a sale constitutes a merger. This draft does not address mergers. The Ethics Committee thinks that this version balances all interests. Rule 1.17 is intended to avoid the commoditization of clients. Vice Chair Gallagher thinks this could help the legal desert issue as under the former rule you sold your practice and had to give up the right to practice that specific area of law .

There was discussion about the change in language from sold to transferred in some of the language of the rule but not all. It was noted that there were some inconsistencies in the existing rule. It is really the client files that are being transferred, not clients, responded Vice Chair Gallagher, which is why the revision was worded the way it was.

There was additional discussion about how LLC's are dealt with. This is addressed in paragraph A. The Ethics Committee's goal is to amend the rule so that if something goes wrong the buyer will be answerable to the NH Supreme Court.

The Ethics Committee discussed including mergers, which the Board had supported in the past, but decided not to. They felt it would be presumptuous. President Lick asked about adding a comment. The Ethics Committee decided to wait until the language is settled by the Court's Rules Committee, then submit a comment if needed.

There was a question about making sure practitioners are notified regarding changes to the NH Supreme Court Rules. They are published in the Bar News.

Action

On Motion to adopt the Ethics Committee's proposed revision to NH Supreme Court Rule 1.17 as presented. Passed unanimously.

- G. Request – LRS Database Management and billing system – **ACTION ITEM** Sarah Blodgett

Executive Director Sarah Blodgett spoke about her memo included in the Board materials. We continue to have some serious problems with our current member database. We are working on replacing it and are in the process of putting out a request for proposal, but this

won't happen until halfway through the upcoming fiscal year. Her memo explains the reasons for supporting this proposed expenditure. The NHBA Lawyer Referral Service (LRS) has become a significant revenue source for the Bar. We would like to jump ahead of the member database replacement process and contract with Qase program. Several other bars use it. Due to the impact of the dysfunction of The Associate (our current member database) on current operations we would like to move forward and implement this system. This change will make the process more manageable for both the attorneys on our LRS panels and the LRS staff. The Board has heard about these problems previously, which have resulted in the Bar refunding a number of \$25 client application fees because the current database could not consistently assess the fee. Controller Jen McManus shared the figures on the costs for the new system over the term of the proposed contract.

**ACTION**

On motion to approve the purchase subject to the approval of the FY27 budget and authorize the \$25 referral fee to be charged for clients of the LRS Full Fee service. Passed unanimously.

- H. Certificate of Authority for ED to sign contracts – **ACTION ITEM** Sarah Blodgett

Executive Director Blodgett (as well as former Executive Directors) has historically been signing contracts on behalf of the association. We have submitted an IOLTA grant application to the NHBF on behalf of the NHBA Modest Means Program that requires a certificate of authority, such as the sample provided to the Board. The plan is to complete this once and it would be valid until there is a new person hired as Executive Director. Director Blodgett is asking for Board approval of this plan.

Action

On motion to ratify the contracts signed by Director Blodgett prior to today's meeting, extending the Executive Director's authority to sign contracts up to \$10,000 over budgeted amounts until otherwise revoked and allowing for issuance of certificate of authority generally when needed to be issued by the Board Secretary. Passed unanimously.

There was discussion about the dollar limit in the motion. We have a draft policy that will be coming to the Board for approval, that sets a ceiling of \$10,000.

- I. Treasurer's Report Geoff Gallagher/Jennifer McManus

There are no surprises this month. We are finally getting to the time of the year when we expect to see increases in CLE revenue. NHBA CLE provides 32% of the CLE credits earned by NH attorneys. We are also doing well with LRS revenue. Numbers are at \$194,000 through February and we had budgeted \$200,000 for the year.

**ACTION**

On motion to approve the treasurers report. Passed unanimously.

J. President’s Report

Derek Lick

President Lick has had discussions with the NH Center for Non Profits about possible collaboration. One possibility is to create a non-profit category for Modest and Full Fee referrals in our LRS program.

He also let the Board know that the Board’s comment in response to the US Department of Justice’s proposed rulemaking has been submitted. The proposal would exempt all US DOJ attorneys from regulation and discipline at the state level.

President Lick also spoke about HB 512, the bill that would remove the fee for criminal annulment for those not convicted of the crime they were charged with. There were some last minute amendments that required him to reconsider our position. The bill was limited to only those records after a certain date and time and was focused on a particular senator. We took a step back and decided not to submit a position on this bill. He thought we should not take a position supporting a particular senator.

K. Executive Director’s Report

Sarah Blodgett

Reminder – We are looking for nominations for awards for annual meeting. Please spread the word.

Incoming President Bob Lucic added that the Board Orientation is planned for September 18<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Sheehan Phinney’s offices in Manchester.

L. Adjournment –

The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Deborah J. Hawkins*

Deborah J. Hawkins for Catherine E. Shanelaris, Secretary

<b>New Hampshire Bar Association</b>
<b>Membership Status Changes</b>
<b>Presented to the Board of Governors April 16, 2026</b>
<b>Status Changes March 12, 2026 - April 8, 2026</b>

<b>Bar ID</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Old Status</b>	<b>New Status</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
807	Attorney Paul T. Fitzgerald	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive Retired</b>	02/05/2026
1444	Attorney Maria Holland Law	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive Retired</b>	03/31/2026
2844	Attorney Sherry M. Hieber	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive Retired</b>	03/27/2026
8786	Attorney Gerard F. Gray	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive Retired</b>	03/16/2026
10012	Attorney Priscilla E. Kimball	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>	04/01/2026
10528	Attorney Jeffrey M. Goodrich	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>	03/12/2026
13096	Attorney Matthew H. Weegar	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>	11/01/2025
264674	Attorney Claudio Morfe	<b>Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>	03/31/2026
265414	Attorney Kenneth H. Naide	<b>Active</b>	<b>Limited Active</b>	03/19/2026
265808	Attorney Danielle Elizabeth Earley	<b>Active</b>	<b>Resigned</b>	03/12/2026
267778	Attorney Kathleen Gleason Healy	<b>Honorary Active</b>	<b>Deceased</b>	03/09/2026
272504	Attorney Peter Craig Netburn	<b>Inactive</b>	<b>Resigned</b>	03/05/2026
272810	Attorney Theodore Francis Roberts	<b>Inactive</b>	<b>Resigned</b>	04/01/2026
273687	Attorney Samuel Louis Gold	<b>Inactive Retired</b>	<b>Active</b>	03/30/2026
279695	Attorney Stephen Roy Pattison	<b>Military Active</b>	<b>Inactive</b>	04/01/2026
281039	Attorney Taylor Asen	<b>Registrant</b>	<b>Active</b>	03/31/2026