

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING
Thursday, May 28, 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, Leonard Harden, Kyle Robidas, Barry Schuster, Secretary Cathy Shanelaris, James Shepard, 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

A. Call to Order Derek Lick

President Lick called the meeting to order at 4 pm. He welcomed new board members Ryan Correa (Hillsborough South) and Stephani Roundy Knights (Governor at Large). They will assume their seats after the upcoming Annual Meeting next week.

REGULAR BUSINESS – CONSENT ITEMS

B. Membership Status Changes Jennifer McManus

C. Minutes of April 16, 2026 Meeting Catherine Shanelaris

ACTION

On motion to adopt the consent items. Passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

D. Budget Presentation and Approval **ACTION ITEM** Sarah Blodgett/Bob Lucic
Jennifer McManus

Executive Director Sarah Blodgett started the discussion by thanking Controller Jennifer McManus for all her hard work. She revamped the budget process so that it is consistent with

the monthly financial reports the Board receives. This is a much more effective way of communicating the bar's financial situation with the Board. Director Blodgett also complimented Controller McManus for her work on crafting the budget. Director Blodgett noted that there were lengthy discussions with the Finance Committee regarding challenges in forecasting the CLE revenue. The budget numbers are based on actuals through 2025 plus a 4% increase. As previously reported, last year's budget was based on erroneously inflated numbers. We have improved our current method of forecasting.

President Elect Bob Lucic echoed Director Blodgett's comments. The process has been incredibly logical and well thought out, especially incorporating members of the Finance Committee working with department heads through the "budget buddy" process. He noted that on the revenue side we did not build in any price increases to the forecast, but we will probably need to raise these prices in the near future, perhaps during the next budget cycle. The Board of Governors will need to review this in the coming years. It was noted that we don't have the increase in revenue we had last year from the credit card fees to use as the budget already includes these numbers.

Vice President Sarah Mattson Duston also complemented the Association and the management. She thought it was a really participatory process that members can feel good about.

President Lick explained the NHBA budgeting process to our new members that are guests today. Director Blodgett noted that we have worked to decrease licensing delinquency fees owed by members. Controller McManus noted that this is a very conservative budget appropriate for these economic times.

There was discussion about credit card fees of 3% that don't cover the full costs that the NHBA is charged by the processing company. Members still have an option to pay by check. We are paying about \$15,000 in fees annually after the offset by member fees. President Lick suggested that the Board should consider increasing the surcharge for paying by credit card. There was a question about whether the NHBA shops around for the best rate, and we will continue to seeking other service providers to hopefully lower these fees in the future. Once we convert to a new association management system, we may have additional options for ACH payment option which would be at a lower processing fee. Our current AMS doesn't support ACH payments. Prior to charging members a fee for credit card payments, we paid \$88,000 in fees per year.

Director Blodgett spoke about expenses for the upcoming year. We expect a big jump in capitals costs for the implementation of a new association management system (AMS) in the upcoming year. This is included in the capital budget. We will be able to implement the new LRS software system that was already approved by the Board as well. To help us select and implement the new AMS, we will be working with a consultant since we have eliminated the in-house IT position. She also spoke about the increased cost of events. There was a discussion about budgeting for committee events. Director Blodgett said we have taken cost increases into

account when budgeting. President Elect Lucic said we do what we can to keep costs down, for example, the Board retreat will be held at his firm Sheehan Phinney this year to save money. Vice President Mattson Duston's sense is that the process is a rigorous process, being conservative not only in forecasting but looking at the line detail of the budget and determining whether increases were necessary.

The discussion of then moved on to the capital budget, the bulk of which is \$60,000 for the new AMS. Controller McManus stated that she used a rough quote based on our preliminary inquiries. This is implementation cost only. The cost of the system itself and annual licensing fees will be separate. In addition, there is money budgeted for upgrades of computers, monitors and other peripherals as well as battery replacement for our UPS to keep things up and running if we lose power. Lastly, there is cost of upgrading our wireless infrastructure, which is a security issue.

ACTION

On motion to approve the operating and capital budget. Passed unanimously.

E. Treasurers Report- ACTION ITEM Geoff Gallagher/Jennifer McManus

Treasurer Gallagher reported that we are ahead of budget, under for expenses and salaries and up on revenue for referral services and dues. We are where we had hoped to be and maybe ahead a bit. He added that for CLE – this is the time of the year where most of the revenue is realized.

There was discussion about increased member status changes. This traditionally happens in advance of renewal season.

ACTION

On motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Passed unanimously.

F. Board of Governor Appointments -**ACTION ITEM** Derek Lick/Sarah Blodgett

1. Vice President
2. Hillsborough North County Governor
3. Strafford County Governor

Director Blodgett spoke about the appointments the Board is being asked to support. Jane Young is willing to be appointed as VP. President Lick nominated her. The Board unanimously voted to appoint her as VP.

President Lick talked about the open Hills North seat. Someone was recommended to President Lick, and he has reached out and will continue that effort. He asks the Board for suggestions for others that might be willing to serve. If we have a willing appointee, they will be considered at the June meeting.

President Lick nominated Matt Stachowske to the Strafford County Governor seat. He is currently serving in this position. The Board voted unanimously to appoint him.

G. President's Report

Derek Lick

President Lick is very excited about the Annual Meeting. Director Blodgett notes that we have had some challenges with the resort. We have 78 members registered for the whole meeting. As a point of comparison, there were 94 members at the last meeting held at the Mountain View Grand in 2022. She noted that this confirms the Board made the right decision to reduce the frequency of resort meetings to every 5 years.

H. Executive Director's Report

Sarah Blodgett

Director Blodgett let the Board know that the association received a \$5,000 bequest from Member Dave Bradley. President Lick would like to use it to make a donation to the Rudman Center to help fund a Constitution Fellowship. It would be a partial funding of the fellowship; the Center has identified other funding sources to help support this.

ACTION

On motion to use this bequest to fund the Constitution fellowship at the Rudman Center. Passed with 2 abstentions – Kate Mahan and Sarah Mattson Dustin.

The Board discussed recognizing Attorney Bradley in the award going to the Rudman Center.

Director Blodgett shared two informational items.

1. The NHBA Ethics Committee has an ethics helpline for our members. Its operation has not been covered by our insurance plan, but we will cover it going forward. The Public Protection Fund Committee needs coverage as well, so our insurance cost may increase. We should have the exact amount for the June meeting.
2. The NHBA Ethics Committee will be making some changes to this helpline process. Director Blodgett will review with the Board officers.
3. Director Blodgett also shared that the US Department of Justice has sued the Washington DC bar. They are alleging that the bar has unfairly pursued discipline against US Department of Justice attorneys.

I. State Update

All Board Members

Board members are asked to report on issues of concern or interest for Association members that should be brought to the attention of the Board of Governors

Guest and New Governor at Large Stephani Roundy Knight announced the June 16 New Lawyers Committee Bench Bar Meet and Greet to be held after the Practical Skills conference. There are ten judges who signed up to attend. She Invited the Board to

attend – it will be held from 5 – 6:30 at the Grappone Conference Center in Concord.

Executive Assistant Debbie Hawkins announced the committee appointment process for the upcoming year is under way.

President Bob Lucic added that the committee chairs will be attending the Board orientation in September to discuss plans for the year.

- J. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS REQUIRING REVIEW BUT NO ACTION
 - 1. Ethics Corner Article, Updated Guidance on Disclosure of Information in Motions to Withdraw
 - 2. Ethics Corner Article, Material Adverse Effect Under Rule 1.16(b)(1)

- K. Adjournment of Regular Meeting at 4:50 pm.

The Board entered Executive Session at 4:51 pm.

Executive Session

- L. Brown and Brown Discussion Sheehan Phinney Counsel

ACTION

On motion to confirm termination of the Endorsement Agreement with Brown & Brown, Inc. as of June 1, 2026, as consistent with the notice requirement effectuated in counsel’s March 31, 2026 communication, and to inform members of this decision. Passed with one recusal, Bob Lucic.

- M. Adjournment of Executive Session

Executive session was adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah J. Hawkins

Deborah J. Hawkins for Catherine E. Shanelaris, Secretary

New Hampshire Bar Association				
Membership Status Changes				
Presented to the Board of Governors May 21, 2026				
Status Changes April 8, 2026 - May 14, 2026				

Bar ID	Name	Old Status	New Status	Effective Date
10498	Attorney Kerry Casey Flaherty	Active	Inactive	05/07/2026
276439	Attorney Harper Anne Weissburg	Active	Inactive	04/30/2026
281051	Attorney Gabriella Esther Gutt Stearns	Active	Inactive	03/31/2026
279368	Attorney Sean Michael Davis	Active	Inactive	5/15/2026
1300	Attorney Daniel J. Kalinski	Active	Inactive	5/18/2026
277956	Attorney Sandra Grady Costa Bensson	Active	Inactive	5/16/2026
12454	Attorney John D. Cassidy	Active	Inactive	5/15/2026
281122	Attorney Nancy Nearing Keller-Go	Active	Inactive	5/12/2026
281234	Attorney Jack Wilson Champagne	Active	Inactive	5/15/2026
154	Attorney James G. Cook	Active	Inactive Retired	05/01/2026
7913	Attorney Paul Anthony Maggiotto	Active	Limited Active	07/29/2025
276421	Attorney Jeffrey Robert Regan Wasson	Active	Military Active	01/05/2026
2110	Attorney David W. Rayment	Active	Resigned	10/31/2025
20123	Attorney Ryan S. Mitchell	Active	Resigned	05/01/2026
281255	Attorney William James Sweeney	Active	Inactive	5/20/2026
281247	Attorney Mathias Walter Nessim Lang	Active	Inactive	5/15/2026
607	Attorney Ross V. Deachman	Honorary Active	Honorary Inactive	5/14/2026
1278	Attorney Daniel W. Jones	Honorary Inactive	Deceased	05/05/2026
2177	Attorney Kenneth L. Robinson Jr.	Honorary Inactive	Deceased	04/25/2026
9680	Attorney Robert James Waldron	Honorary Inactive	Deceased	03/02/2025
17681	Attorney James R. Drabick	Inactive	Active	5/14/2026
2039	Attorney Loretta S. Platt	Inactive	Inactive Retired	5/14/2026
273687	Attorney Samuel Louis Gold	Inactive	Active	04/15/2026
1940	Attorney George Herbert Ostler	Inactive	Inactive Retired	05/01/2026
11856	Attorney Sheryle Ann	Inactive	Resigned	05/12/2026

	Margerison			
15366	Attorney Melissa A. Pierce	Inactive	Resigned	05/01/2026
16206	Attorney Katherine W. Bubar	Inactive	Resigned	05/11/2026
18650	Attorney Mark I. Pierce	Inactive	Resigned	05/01/2026
274174	Attorney Joseph Thomas Toomey	Inactive	Resigned	04/03/2026
19657	Attorney John H. Perten	Inactive Retired	Inactive	04/28/2026
309	Attorney Matthew Thompson Brock	Inactive Retired	Resigned	05/11/2026
1264	Attorney Martin R. Jenkins	Inactive Retired	Resigned	04/15/2026
272801	Attorney William Gerard Gillespie	Inactive Retired	Resigned	04/15/2026
10528	Attorney Jeffrey M. Goodrich	Limited Active	Active	03/12/2026
269444	Attorney Andrew Richard Dieselman	Military Active	Active	5/15/2026
15122	Attorney Christopher R. Burns	Suspended	Disbarred	05/13/2026
12518	Attorney Kurt S. Olson	Suspended	Resigned	05/12/2026