

NEW HAMPSHIRE BAR ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS' MEETING
Friday, June 12, 2026
Mountain View Grand Resort and Spa
Whitefield, NH
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Live with no remote option
Meeting Minutes

Present for all or part of the meeting:

Board Members:

President Derek Lick, President Elect Robert Lucic, Oliver Bloom, Gar Chiang, Jake Crabbs, Steven Dutton, Kristin Fields, Treasurer Geoffrey Gallagher, Chrissy Hanisco, Leonard Harden, Petar Leonard, Barry Schuster, Charla Stevens

NHBA Staff: Sarah Blodgett, Debbie Hawkins, Vince O'Brien, Caitlin Dow, Holly Chandler, Martha Madsen

ABA Delegates: Lyndsay Robinson

A. Call to Order

Derek Lick

President Lick called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. There was not a quorum of the Board present.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

B. Report of the Special Committee on Public Sector and Public Interest Attorneys

Sarah Blodgett

Executive Director Sarah Blodgett spoke about the report on the committee's work this past year. Attorney Jane Young chaired the committee, and it was very active. There is still quite a bit to be done in this area. One of the big accomplishments was the new CLE scholarship program for public sector attorneys. We have also been running profiles of public sector attorneys in the Bar News to encourage others to choose these careers.

The committee did not have a chance to look at any of the statistics about this work. If the Board decides to continue the committee, they can work on this project. Director Blodgett's recommendation is to have the committee continue the work for the next year.

No action was taken on this suggestion due to the lack of a quorum. Please see page 6.

President Lick introduced NHBA Civics and Law Outreach Coordinator Martha Madsen to present this report. During the FY26 budget process last May (2025) the Board expressed concerns about the time being spent on the We the People (WTP) program in light of the small number of schools participating over the past several years. At that time, the Board limited Ms. Madsen's time on this program to 300 hours annually. Ms. Madsen was also asked to report to the Board on progress with growing the program. Director Blodgett and Coordinator Madsen invited the Board to provide additional direction for the program for the upcoming year. Director Blodgett noted that she cannot stress enough the great job that Coordinator Madsen has done to grow the program. Coordinator Madsen responded that she has been able to grow the program due to the team effort of President Lick, Director Blodgett, and the other NHBA staff that supported her. Coordinator Madsen urged those that want to visit a classroom to reach out to her.

Coordinator Madsen reviewed the statistics regarding participation in the NHBA Civics and Law Outreach programs for teachers (89), attorneys (157) and students reached (4606). We don't have valid data on prior years to compare. She noted that we have about 1400 educators on our outreach list. She has presented at teachers' conferences, including the NH Council for Social Studies and America at 250. She received some requests from educators through these presentations. We are also doing more professional development for teachers, between 4 and 6 days per year compared to 2.5 in the past. We are also trying to include educators as members of the NHBA Civics and Law Outreach Committee.

Coordinator Madsen has reached out to lawyers through NH Bar News, the Civics Bootcamps put on at the Federal Court by Judge McCafferty, and presentations at NHBA programs such as Practical Skills and Midyear Meeting. She is growing a list of lawyers to go into schools and has 250 attorneys on the list so far. She has created activity kits for lawyers to use in elementary schools.

Coordinator Madsen gave an overview of the Civic programs of the NHBA.

The first program discussed was A Lawyer and Judge in Every School, which included Goldilocks Mock Trial, "We the Kids", No Vehicles in the Park (a kit for use with elementary school students), and Candy Bar Contracts. Statistics related to this program are as follows: hours spent by Coordinator - 198.5 hours, students reached - 1450 students, teachers served - 58 teachers, lawyers engaged - 87, hours lawyers committed - 175, funds spent: \$2505.00. Coordinator Madsen shared that we are developing a "legal jeopardy" game to be used for this program. It has been used at high school career fairs, and it was well received. It is going to be digitized, and we will have tablets in the future for the students to use in playing the game. She noted that she is also revising lesson plans on the web site to make them more uniform and better organized.

The next program discussed was We the People (WTP). This is a rigorous program and is not suited to all students. Schools sometimes use the curriculum as an AP government class. There are four levels of texts available for grades 3-12. The high school text can support a stand-alone course or a portion for an AP Government class. High Schools can choose to participate in a statewide hearing event. Lawyers volunteer to engage with students on Constitutional questions and provide

feedback. Milford, John Stark, Hollis-Brookline, and Pelham participated in 2025-26. Founders Academy and Campbell High School are set to join this group in 2026-27. Middle Schools can elect to hold informal school or district-wide hearings and participate in a nationwide event online, with lawyer volunteers participating. Cooperative Middle School in Stratham held two schoolwide showcases in 2026 involving all their 8th graders. 16 lawyers participated in those hearings. They are using the pedagogy of the congressional hearing, and the teacher is adjusting it to what works for him and his students.

The high school competition is the most forward facing part of the program. It has been the flagship program of the LRE/Civics program for a significant period of time. Only three schools participated for many years. This increased to four schools during this past year. Coordinator Madsen has received inquiries from several new schools, and it looks like we may have 6 schools participating next year. We are hopeful we may have some middle school participation in the curriculum. We do have middle school participation in the We the People in at least one school: Cooperative Middle School in Stratham had two hearings that included their entire 8th grade.

Coordinator Madsen discussed statistics for this program. It requires work from the entire Bar staff to produce the competition. Hours spent by the coordinator and other staff on We the People were as follows: Coordinator, 365.5 hours; other staff at two hearings, 66 hours, for a total of 431.5 hours. Students reached through We the People: 4 teams, serving 56 students at high school hearings, plus Cooperative Middle School students, for a total of 156. Teachers served through We the People: 24 (including 7 middle and high school teachers who participated in showcase hearings). Lawyers engaged with We the People: 35. Hours lawyers committed to We the People: 35 lawyers each contributed 3 hours on a short day, 3–6 hours on a long day, or both days, for an estimated 210 hours of attorney time per year. Funds spent were \$8,577.00.

Director Blodgett added that the low number of students reached was one of the concerns expressed by the Board in the past. Martha has worked to grow We the People. Part of her approach has been seeking feedback from teachers that ultimately did not join the program. Teachers reported the timing of the competitions can be problematic. It requires that they must get through the curriculum by January to be ready for the competition. This is not doable for every teacher. Due to the time commitment, it takes both a passionate teacher and supportive administrator to be successful. In addition, some teachers found the textbook to be dated and dry. Coordinator Madsen shared there will be an updated textbook coming out for the high school curriculum.

President Lick pointed out that there are less attorneys involved, and more time is spent to reach less students.

Treasurer Geoff Gallagher joined the meeting to bring the Board to a quorum so action can be taken.

President Lick provided a refresher of the Ad Hoc Committee's report in the spring of 2025 last year to look at these programs. This project developed following concerns about unspent funds

appropriated to this program. The Board has a duty to ensure Bar funds are being used wisely. There are two views about the program; some are passionate about the deep dive of WTP and others feel that it is more important to reach more students. There was discussion about the large amount of time involved by staff to put on these programs. Historically we have only had three teams attending the “elimination” round in December and the final round in January. There was discussion about the value of the first event due to the low number of participation schools. Because of the small number of participating schools, no teams are eliminated. It was noted that professional development for teachers should not be cut, as this helps to grow the program. It is a way of keeping the excitement and bond between enthusiastic teachers.

Coordinator Madsen suggested reducing the number of statewide hearings to one until the number of teams rises to seven. In the meantime, lawyers could still offer practice hearings in December by visiting the competing schools. There are 6 units to the program. Because there are so few schools participating, there is no need to have the elimination round in December.

There was a question about whether teachers and students need to meet outside of the regular school day to prepare. They do meet outside of school time. Coordinator Madsen says we are asking teachers to put in more time than just the classroom hours, so it’s a lot to ask.

ABA Young Lawyer Association Delegate Lyndsay Robinson spoke about her participation this year, and encouraged board members to participate in the future.

Another activity of the Civics program is the publication and distribution of the Beyond High School book. There is a game, using this book that was used at the career fairs, and the kids loved it. 2500 copies of the book were distributed in the past year. The NHBA is now out of copies. The Civics and Law Outreach Committee is looking into a third edition with updated content and art. They have gone back and forth between printing a hard copy, or a digital edition that would be easier to edit. There will be costs in the coming year for this, estimate to be about \$10,000. There will be updated art from a high school art contest to reinforce the content.

The newest program is Street Law, which partners lawyers with teachers over the course of the academic year. This started as a pilot a year ago. Coordinator Madsen was familiar with program and brought it to the bar. Attorneys commit to two classroom visits and one field trip. Many students went on a civics-based field trip to places such as a house of correction, or a courthouse. Attorneys love this program. All the partnerships are still active. The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive. Participants find it incredibly useful. There is professional development involved as well which will be increased in the upcoming year to two days from one as a result of Bar Foundation funding. Coordinator Madsen finds this program to have a wider audience. It creates relationships over time that continue. She has more attorneys on board to participate next year. The creators of the textbook are coming to present at the professional development session this summer. The cost for this program is half of We the People, and it has the potential to reach more students.

Coordinator Madsen also spoke about some potential new ideas and initiatives to grow the Bar’s Civics outreach program.

Students want to do a summer internship in the law, and teachers have been contacting her to inquire about opportunities. President Lick stated that it is great that teachers know to reach out to Coordinator Madsen for this.

There are new regulations regarding curriculum standards. The NH Historical Society is taking on developing curriculum and wants to collaborate with the NHBA to do so. Judge Delker and two young lawyers will help.

There is a civics camp, the Kennedy-Breyer Scholars currently held annual during the summer in Boston that Judge Aframe would like to use as a model for New Hampshire. We anticipate that he may take the lead but would want the bar's help. It is a week-long program.

The program SCOTUS in your hometown will be held at the Federal Court in Concord next summer and we may be asked to help.

Coordinator Madsen shared that the New Hampshire Bar Foundation has set aside money to help schools and students with funding for civics related field trips, as they realize this is an equity issue for some schools.

She also shared that Judge Saint-Marc has been focused outreach to after-school programs; the Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA and similar programs.

President Lick stated that this is wonderful, he is happy with the growth in the program and Martha's work. He also mentioned the VLEC (virtual learning academy) and inquired as to whether we might reach out to work with them. He asked for like comment from the Board to give Coordinator Madsen, Director Blodgett, and the Civics and Outreach Committee guidance on the Civics programs for the upcoming year. He would like to limit the hours for WTP and likes the suggestion of not doing the preliminary competition.

Others thought we should continue monitoring the numbers. There was discussion about schools in the North Country, Lebanon, and Plymouth. Most of the schools participating in these programs are in the southern part of the state. Coos County Board Member Len Harden stated that he would be willing to help. Coordinator Madsen let the Board know that the We the People professional development will be held in Lebanon in August. She notes that personal connection will help encourage other schools.

President-elect Bob Lucic stated that we don't have enough data from earlier years of the LRE program, so we are at a starting point, but should continue to monitor these programs. He is in favor of giving the program as much "running room" as we can to grow but adds that it is important to keep track of the metrics.

REGULAR BUSINESS – CONSENT ITEMS

D. Minutes of May 28, 2026 Meeting

Catherine Shanelaris

ACTION

On motion to accept the consent agenda. Passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

The Board returned to item B - Report on Public Sector and Public Interest Attorneys to take action now that there is a quorum

ACTION

On motion to extend the Special Committee on Public Sector and Public Interest Attorneys charge for another year. Passed unanimously.

E. Certificate of Authority Policy

Sarah Blodgett

This is a follow up to the item acted on at the April 16, 2026 Board meeting regarding signing a certificate of authority. This is the companion policy for that work.

ACTION

On motion to accept the policy as presented. Passed unanimously.

F. President's Report

Derek Lick

President Lick noted he is happy to be here. He is hoping for good weather. His goal is to have fun at the casino night.

G. Executive Director's Report

Sarah Blodgett

Director Blodgett reported on the status of the Brown and Brown relationship issues. She met with officers earlier this week. We still have not received any response from Brown and Brown. We will continue to update members on the status. Director Blodgett asks that Board members please spread the word so that our members are aware of these issues. President Lick adds that we are using Dave McGrath as counsel for this matter. A message went out to members via email yesterday. President-Elect Lucic added that if anyone gets any press inquiries, please direct them to Director Blodgett. Our default approach is to protect our members and so we have put out more information to them.

H. 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

Grafton County Governor Barry Schuster spoke about a recent Grafton County Bar Association meeting that featured a judge panel. Judges noted how difficult it was to

keep up with the workload, mostly due to amount of cases. He also notes that if you give a judge a draft order, often they will use it.

I. Adjournment at 12:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah J. Hawkins for Catherine E. Shanelaris, Secretary