

**Limousine Association of New Jersey
Board of Directors Conference Call Meeting
Wednesday August 19, 2020 * 10 AM – 11 AM
Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM.

Attendees were: President **Jason Sharenow**, First Vice President **Tim Rose**, Secretary **Karen Gajda**, Treasurer **Barry Trabb** and PAC Chair **Pete Corelli**; Directors **Anthony Azara**, **Shady Azer**, **Johnny Donohue**, **Jay Erlich**, **Howard Gogel**, **Joe Gulino**, **Mike Marroccoli**, **John Maziarz**, **Brian O'Neill**, **David Seelinger**, **Christian Stochholm** and **Chris Weiss**; executive director **Patricia Nelson**.

Absent (excused) was Director **Jonathan Wilner**.

Absent (unexcused) was Second Vice President **Jeff Brodsky**; Directors **Sam Emam** and **Bill Faeth**.

6/24/20 Board Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the 6/24/20 board meeting minutes as presented was made by Rose, seconded by Gogel and unanimously approved.

Financial Report

Trabb advised the bank balance was \$183,789 with no outstanding payables.

Corelli said the PAC bank balance was \$3,237.

Executive Director's Report

- **Membership Status**

As of 8/18/20, the LANJ membership roll totaled 137, including:

- 31 paid through 12/31/20
- 49 paid through 12/31/19 but pre-12/31/20
- 2 paid post-1/1/19 but pre-12/31/19
- 55 paying monthly

The 137 total includes 83 operator, 21 affiliate and 33 supplier members.

- **Dues Suspension**

In late March 2020, because of the COVID-19 crisis, the Limousine Association of New Jersey announced membership dues collection would be suspended for 90 days beginning April 1. Additionally, the pronouncement indicated the suspension would be evaluated near the end of that time to determine if it should be extended for a longer period.

That evaluation was made and the suspension of LANJ dues collection was extended through September 30. This decision is to be evaluated before that date to determine if further suspension is advised (see below).

This suspension means that no renewal activity has been implemented since mid-March (impacting the second and third groups of the membership roll [see above]). It also means that no credit card charges for monthly payments have been made (impacting the fourth group of the membership roll).

President's Report

- **NLA Grant Program**

Sharenow announced the National Limousine Association (NLA) has introduced a new annual grant program for its association members. The program replaces the previous dues rebate program that had been in place for many years. He said LANJ will be submitting an application for a grant, the award of which could be as high as \$10,000.

- **Extended Dues Suspension**

A motion to extend the current dues suspension (see above) to December 31, 2020 was made by Sharenow, seconded by Corelli and unanimously approved.

- **Social Media Campaign**

Sharenow said LANJ's social media campaign **Be Driven Safely** continues to go well. Gogel encouraged board members to actively support the program by liking, sharing and/or commenting on the posts.

- **September 2020 Board Meeting/Call**

Sharenow advised the next LANJ board of directors meeting will be held by conference call or Zoom on Wednesday September 16.

- **Legislative Matters**

- **New Jersey Sales Tax**

Sharenow advised he and the LANJ lobbyists are watching a potential sales tax issue as the State of New Jersey is looking for new fund-raising opportunities.

- **Upcoming Grassroots Campaign**

He also said that he anticipates launching a grassroots letter-writing campaign to U.S. Congressional leaders regarding some bailout in response to the pandemic business slowdown for the chauffeured transportation industry, thus far an overlooked sector of the transportation industry overall.

- **Paycheck Protection Program**
He indicated that a second round of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) can be expected, especially for companies that are down 50% or more in income due to COVID-19.
- **California AB5**
Sharenow commented on California AB5 (Assembly Bill 5) which last week was upheld by a San Francisco judge ruling that Uber and Lyft drivers are employees, not independent contractors, under state law. Seelinger said media reports the ruling will prompt Uber and Lyft to shut down operations in California effective 8/20/2020.
- **Main Street Lending Program**
Seelinger asked if any board member had tried the Main Street Lending Program which the Federal Reserve has established to support lending to small and medium-sized businesses and nonprofit organizations that were in sound financial condition before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Small and medium-sized businesses interested in the program can apply for program loans by contacting an eligible lender. Seelinger promised to provide additional information about the program, including the list of participating banks, to all board members. Sharenow said Nelson would include an article on the program in the upcoming **LANJ E-News**.
- **Upcoming Virtual Programs for the Industry**
Rose said the New England Livery Association recently hosted an online event for its members and others in the industry that was well attended and suggested LANJ might want to do something similar in the coming months. Sharenow said LANJ would consider organizing a virtual event for Fall 2020.

Weiss confirmed that the 2020 CD/NLA Show, which had been planned for October 14-17 in Orlando, has been cancelled. A virtual event is expected to be produced in its place following the November 3 election.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Corelli, seconded by O'Neill and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Submitted by:

Karen Gajda
Secretary

Patricia Nelson
Executive Director