

MEMORANDUM

To: Lycoming Law Association
From: John M. Humphrey, Esquire
Date: Thursday, January 10, 2008
Re: Annual Report of Community Activities and Outreach Committee
CC:

The Community Activities and Outreach Committee met in April 2007 to consider four proposals from community organizations for funding of law related programs. The Committee recommended to the Lycoming Law Association Foundation that it make grants to the following organizations for the programs noted:

- 1) North Penn Legal Services – \$2,625.00 to pay a law student to work at the Williamsport office for ten weeks during the summer of 2007.
- 2) CASA of Lycoming County – \$2,945.00 to reimburse the CASA Program Director and the Coordinator of Early Education for expenses in connection with their attendance at a three day National Conference on Children and the Law hosted by Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- 3) Also considered was a request from Hope Enterprises, Inc. for a grant to fund an Emergency Endowment Fund for legal services in connection with the appointment of guardians and/or powers of attorney for Hope clients. In follow up with Hope administrators, it was determined that the LLA Pro Bono Program would likely be able to furnish the Hope clients with a pro bono attorney who could perform the necessary legal work. To the extent that there were expenses involved, e.g., the testimony of a medical witness, if necessary, the attorney could make application to the recently established Lycoming Law Foundation Pro Bono Litigation Costs Reimbursement Fund.

The recommendations of the Committee to the Foundation concerning the grants to North Penn Legal Services and CASA of Lycoming County were accepted, and the grants were made by the Foundation.

The Committee also discussed the increasing difficulty for public service agencies such as North Penn Legal Services in the recruiting of lawyers willing to serve the needy and to perform other public service. Such attorneys are often burdened by student loans of varying magnitudes and are often unable to accept public service positions in light of the financial obligations associated with repayment of the student loans and the typical low salaries for such attorney positions. The Committee considered recommending that the LLA Foundation establish a student loan repayment assistance program, the purpose of which would be to encourage attorneys to enter into and remain in public service employment. However, numerous issues concerning such a scholarship program have arisen and were not resolved. It is recommended that the Committee revisit the issue involved in establishing this program during 2008.

As of December 31, 2007, there was \$7,351.28 in the Community Activities Fund of the LLA Foundation. This amount does not include the endowment fund.

The LLA Executive Director will be sending out notices during this upcoming year to schools and community programs in Lycoming County notifying them of the availability of grants for law related projects and the time for filing proposals for such grants. If any LLA member is aware of a community organization which might have need for such a grant, the member is encouraged to suggest that a proposal be submitted. General guidelines for grant proposals and the approval therefore can be found on the LLA website.