

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT: 2010

Committee Members

Donald Martino	Gary Weber
John Person	Gene Yaw
Gary Harris	Jonathan Bach
Joel McDermott	Mike Collins
Joseph Campagna	Wilfred Knecht
Patricia Shipman	Paul Petcavage
Pam Shipman	Judge Marc Lovecchio

2010 Report

On February 22, 2010, the Outreach Committee received a request from Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity requesting a donation of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) to assist with the construction of three (3) homes for Lycoming County residents. The Outreach Committee decided not to recommend this request to the Lycoming Law Association board primarily because the request was not related to legal education, the provision of legal services to low income persons or the administration of justice in Lycoming County.

On April 15, 2010, the Outreach Committee received a request from North Penn Legal Services to send a member of the Williamsport Office to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act Boot Camp which was held in San Francisco, California on May 2, 2010 through May 4, 2010. The Outreach Committee recommended the Lycoming Law Association approve the request in the amount of one thousand, two hundred and forty-five dollars (\$1,245.00) and this request was approved with the funding provided on May 3, 2010. North Penn Legal Services sent Attorney Jennifer Heverly who has since presented the information she learned to the Lycoming County Bar at an Eat and Earn.

On June 2, 2010, the Outreach Committee received a request from C.A.S.A. of Lycoming County to assist in funding a new C.A.S.A program to provide child-centered advocacy for children who are the subject of private custody disputes through the Child Custody Advocate Program. The requested amount was five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) which was to be designated to pay one-half (1/2) of the salary of an employee of the program for the period of one (1) year. The Outreach Committee decided not to recommend this request to the Lycoming Law Foundation Board primarily because the request was to temporarily fund an employee position. The Outreach Committee elected to work with C.A.S.A. to tailor the request to meet the requirements of the committee.

On September 16, 2010, the Outreach Committee received a revised request from C.A.S.A. of Lycoming County to assist in funding the new C.A.S.A. provide to provide child-centered advocacy for children who are the subject of private custody disputes through the Child Custody Advocate Program. The requested amount was two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) which was to be used for curriculum development, staff training and training the first class of program volunteers. The Outreach Committee recommended the Lycoming Law Association approve the request and this request was approved with the funding provided on November 3, 2010.

The Outreach Committee updated its Grant Request Application Form on the Lycoming Law Association website. The new application includes requests for information that will allow the committee to better evaluate the purpose of the request and follow through with the project's stated goals. The application also more closely follows the format of standard grant request forms.

The Outreach Committee met on November 9, 2010 and discussed ways to increase the Lycoming Law Foundation and the Lycoming Law Association's presence in the Lycoming County community. The committee discussed organizing seminars where information will be provided to the community regarding the availability of legal services and other needed services in Lycoming County. The committee elected to request the provision of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) as a working committee budget to assist with the above. The committee also discussed reaching out into the community by working with Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity toward building a home sponsored by the Lycoming County Bar and its various entities.

On November 19, 2010, the committee chair met with Todd Fox, the executive director of Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, to discuss potential projects and the commitment needed for the Lycoming County Bar to sponsor a home build in Lycoming County.

On December 10, 2010, the committee chair met with the Lycoming Law Foundation Board and discussed the proposal to sponsor a home build through the Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity. Details were provided regarding funding requirements and needed financial and other commitments. A decision on how to proceed with this project will be made based on the membership's decision at the annual meeting.

Donald F. Martino
Chair, Community Activities and Outreach Committee