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Executive Director's Report to the General Membership

9 January 2012

2011 was another successful year for the Lycoming Law Association, and marked the completion of my seventh year as Executive Director of the LLA. I am pleased to report that the LLA continues to be financially viable and stable.

At the Annual Meeting in January, we honored Judge Malcolm Muir for 40 years on the bench and his longstanding commitment to the Lycoming Law Association. It was a lovely evening, presided over, in part, by Jack Humphrey, who presented a video montage of the Judge. The Judge was also presented with a painting by Bill Carlucci on behalf of the Pennsylvania Bar Association. The Law Association presented Judge Muir with a new briefcase and a basket of dog treats for Casey, his best girl. We were so glad to be able to honor the Judge, as we would lose him in July, bringing great sadness to the Bar and the community at large.

A week later, we held our third annual Board Retreat for the incoming Executive Committee. This year we did something different: we held a two day, overnight Board Retreat at Skytop Lodge in the Poconos. We were extremely fortunate to secure – free of charge -- the services of David Blaner, Executive Director of the Allegheny County Bar Association, as facilitator for our Retreat. Retreat planning with David began in the early Fall of 2010 to prepare for what would be the first comprehensive overview of LLA and its future plans and goals. The Retreat was a resounding success and resulted in the development of a Mission Statement, 12, 24 and 36 month goals, development of a Policy Manual for the Association, organizational and administrative policies, strategic planning, and the like.

We have completed our sixth successful year of "Eat & Earns." Attendance is steady, and we've begun advertising to neighboring counties. Feedback and evaluations continue to fall in the "excellent" range. As of September, 2011, we moved the Eat & Earn seminars from the Ross Club to the Holiday Inn, and the response has been excellent, as the parking is much more accommodating for those lawyers who are coming from outside downtown. We continue to hold regular PBI Video and Groupcast seminars on site at the LLA Office, as well as offer room rentals to out-of-town attorneys. We saw rental income of approximately \$4,800 for the LLA conference space. CLEs either held by LLA or managed by LLA brought in approximately \$7,300.00.

The LLA was charitable again this year, donating \$5,000 to the Foundation, and \$2000 to the Pennsylvania Bar Association, both of which the LLA Finance Committee has entered as regular line items in the budget. In addition, a Matching Fund Drive was held to support flood relief efforts in Lycoming County. Our wonderful members (and a few friends) donated \$3,270.00, which was then matched by the LLA, for a total Red Cross donation of \$6,540.00.

Our committees continued to function successfully this year, and we saw the establishment of a new substantive law committee, the Family Law Committee. Law Day in the Spring was again a success, as always. The Young Lawyers Division hosted another "Lawtoberfest" in October, 2011, with proceeds going to the Lycoming Law Association Foundation.

The end of June brought a big change to the Lycoming Reporter – Bill Knecht, longtime Editor, retired from the practice of law, and gave up his Reporter responsibilities. While we are sad to see him go, and will miss his always knowledgeable sense of Association and Reporter history, we wish him well in this new phase. Luckily, he has left us in the capable hands of Gary Weber, the newly-named Editor of the Lycoming Reporter.



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Executive Director's Report to the General Membership

9 January 2012, continued

As mentioned above, we lost our beloved Judge Malcolm Muir in July, 2011. In August, 2011, a memorial service held by the Law Association and the Court was held at the Community Arts Center and drew attendance from all over the Commonwealth. Noted guests included members of the Federal Bench from Scranton and the President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, as well as many others. It was a fitting tribute to a wonderful man.

In September, we were visited by the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, when they sat for their first-ever session in Lycoming County. LLA hosted eight judges for a Trolley Tour of Williamsport, which ended at the Williamsport Country Club for a cocktail party with live music and a banquet dinner. We honored two of our own at the dinner, as well – Bill Knecht for his dedication to the Law Association and the Lycoming Reporter, and Skip Greevy, for his commitment as a Zone 4 representative to the PBA. The following morning, a breakfast, hosted by our YLD and PBA, was held which gave our Young Lawyers an opportunity to mingle informally with the Judges. Then we were off to Court for the Special Session. The entire event was a great success, and we received many accolades from the Commonwealth Court Judges, as well as our own Judges and the LLA Members who participated.

I'd like to thank President Brian Bluth and the Executive Board for their support over the past twelve months. This has been a year of unequalled change and growth, and I am proud to have been a part of it.

I look forward to working with Mike Wiley in his Presidential year, and am excited to see what we will accomplish in 2012.

Sincerely,

Jessica A. Engel
Executive Director

The mission of the Lycoming Law Association is to promote the practice of law using the highest ethical standards and to advance the public image of our profession. We accomplish this by communicating within our profession and throughout our community, providing continuing legal education, encouraging collegiality among attorneys and the Court, providing *pro bono* legal assistance, and through community involvement.

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