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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2011

2011 was a busy and perhaps unprecedented year at the Lycoming Law Association.

The 2011 Annual Banquet attracted the best attendance in recent memory, which event celebrated the 40-year judicial career of Judge Malcolm Muir. It was quite fitting that the Association should honor Judge Muir in this way, as it turned out to be the last assembly of the Membership that he would attend. The Sun-Gazette ran an excellent article on the Banquet, as did our Webmaster, Gary Weber. The Banquet was held for the first time at the Williamsport Country Club, which was an excellent host of our Membership. Everyone who attended had a memorable evening.

Over the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday weekend, the Executive Committee went on Retreat for two days and one night at SkyTop Lodge in the Poconos. David Blaner, Executive Director of Allegheny County Bar Association donated his time and experience to facilitate our discussion on a myriad of issues. We are tremendously grateful for David's involvement, and David has remained a resource to the leadership of our Association. The Retreat was highly productive and enjoyable, and was instrumental in guiding the work of the Executive Committee in 2011 and beyond. More information about the Retreat is on the Website thanks to the tireless work of Gary Weber, under the heading "LLA Looks to the Future."

The Association adopted its first Mission Statement, which is posted on the Website. The Mission Statement has already been referenced as part of Executive Committee discussions.

The LLA hosted its traditional community events in 2011. The Mock Trial Competition and Law Day Art and Essay competitions attracted quality area students with an interest in the law, and whose work product is of higher caliber each year. Members are strongly encouraged to support each of the events in the years ahead.

In August 2011, we said a final farewell to our friend and mentor Malcolm Muir, who died on July 22, 2011, at the age of 96 and had been the longest-tenured member of our Association in its history. The stories which were shared at his memorial services were heartwarming and humorous, and remind us that Judge Muir's ethos will continue to guide the practice of law in our community for years to come.

In September, 2011, the Association hosted the first-ever visit of the Commonwealth Court to Williamsport. Eight judges of the court traveled to Williamsport for two days of events, capped by the Court's first-ever session at the Lycoming County Courthouse. The three-judge panel was chaired by Lycoming County's native son Judge Kevin Brobson (Montoursville). All Commonwealth Court judges were welcomed with a basket of local treats in the hotel room, a trolley tour of local attractions, a cocktail hour and banquet dinner at the Williamsport Country Club, and a breakfast the following morning co-sponsored by our YLD and PBA. The Association received many letters of thanks and appreciation from the judges who were present.

The Association raised over \$6,500.00 which was donated to the local Red Cross chapter to support flood relief efforts. Members generously donated to the Association's matching-gift fund, and the Red Cross was most appreciative of our efforts.



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Member attendance at various events remained an issue in 2011. Participation at the annual picnic, Commonwealth Court banquet, and Lawctoberfest event was lackluster. Members are encouraged to attend events such as these which offer an excellent opportunity to socialize, network, and build relationships between and among members of the Association.

The Association remains financially secure. Legislative efforts to curtail mandatory notices in the Reporter were unsuccessful, although we expect that such efforts may again be introduced in the General Assembly in the next several years. The Reporter remains the primary source of revenue for the Association, and the Executive Committee continues to work to secure the long-term financial stability of the Association. In addition, the Association experienced a significant decrease in Reporter income in 2011 as a result of a decrease in Sheriff's sales, mortgage foreclosures, and other advertising, which is a trend we predict will continue in 2012.

The Association continues to offer local, competitively priced CLE opportunities. Members can obtain all CLE credits through the LLA via live seminars (including the Eat-N-Earn series), video replays and simulcasts, and other special events. Participation in LLA-sponsored CLEs supports the activities of the Association, and members are encouraged to look for LLA CLEs to meet credit requirements.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as the Association's president in 2011. I have no doubt that we are embarking on another successful year with Mike Wiley at the helm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian J. Bluth, President

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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