

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2020

Angela Campana Lovecchio

2020 began like any other year for the LLA, but quickly morphed into a year unlike any other. The Annual Meeting was conducted at the LLA Office followed by a well-attended Annual Banquet held at Morrone's Restaurant. Annual award recipients were honored for their community service and pro bono work. While the evening was celebratory, the recent and sudden loss of Kristine Waltz weighed heavily on everyone's mind. The LLA, posthumously, awarded the Thomas Wood Award to Kristine. Her husband, Steve Sorage, was in attendance to receive the award.

In February, I attended the Conference of County Bar Leaders along with President-Elect Donald Martino and Michele Frey. LLA Members Rita Alexyn and Taylor Bucler were also in attendance. The conference focused on bar association governance and leadership. The LLA was honored with an award for its successful 2019 Wills for Heroes event, Project Linus blanket drive, Angel Tree collection, as well as Law Day and Mock Trial Competitions.

Early in March, I joined the Law Day Committee to plan for the 2020 Law Day Competition. Unfortunately, shortly after the details for the competition were announced, the pandemic had started to take hold in the United States and the schools in Pennsylvania were closed. While students were learning remotely, the competition was postponed. When it became clear that there would be no possibility of judging entries or celebrating winners, the 2020 Law Day events were cancelled.

In an effort to curb the spread of illness, the LLA Office closed. However, our Executive Director continued working and ensured that the legal journal, the Lycoming Reporter, continued to publish weekly without any interruption.

With Gary Weber's help, the LLA website quickly had a page devoted to COVID-19 updates related to the legal profession. During a time when information and procedures were rapidly changing, the LLA achieved its goal of having a central location for members to easily access information. The first post on the LLA's COVID-19 page was the county's declaration of a judicial emergency on March 16, 2020. The most recent post to the page was on January 5, 2021. The LLA will continue to update its COVID-19 page throughout the continued pandemic.

During this year, Michele and I worked together (mostly Michele) to schedule several affordable distance CLE offerings (by Zoom) to the members. This was accomplished with assistance from Past President Julie Steinbacher, an approved distance provider. Thank you, Julie.

Despite the challenges that 2020 brought, the LLA was able to present a One Thousand Dollar Check to the Lycoming County Historical Society, to honor the William Nichols Award recipient, Gary Weber. A check in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars was presented to Canine Companions for Independence, the organization that donated our courthouse dog, to honor the LLA's 2019 Fair Share Award recipients. Also, important to note is that the annual Angel Tree toy/book collection was a successful endeavor, despite the pandemic. This was a success due to the efforts of the donations received but also because of the tireless work of Corey Mowery and Michele Frey.

I am pleased that the LLA was able to have couple of safe, outdoor events. In July and August, the LLA hosted a wellness event, Yoga in the Park, for members and their guests. In October the LLA invited its members to pick

a pumpkin at Carpenter's Pumpkin Farm and have professional family photographs taken by Whitney Hart Photography.

The LLA, in conjunction with the Court, held a 2020 New Attorney Admission Ceremony and a virtual Memorial Service for Kristine Waltz in December. While there was much reluctance to hold Kristine's Memorial Service online, Michele and I have since received lots of positive feedback. Specifically, having the service by Zoom allowed for it to be recorded and posted on the LLA website. Kristine's family and friends outside of the profession were able to view it at their convenience. At the memorial service, I announced the LLA's decision to name future Wills for Heroes after Kristine Waltz.

Sadly, in 2020 the four attorneys passed away: Joe Rider, Don Larrabee, Dick Callahan, and Henry Perciballi. They will be greatly missed.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to my fellow bar leaders and committee chairs for their commitment to the LLA. It has been a pleasure and honor working with all of you during my presidential year.

Lastly, I want to express my thanks, respect, and admiration to our Executive Director, Michele Frey. She works tirelessly to make sure the LLA runs smoothly. Michele helped me constantly and made sure that my tenure ran smoothly. Without her help I would never have been able to carry out my presidential duties. Many thanks Michele!

Sincerely,
LYCOMING LAW ASSOCIATION

Angela Campana Lovecchio, Esquire
2020 LLA President