

2023 Annual Report for the Lycoming Law Association Foundation

Foundation Meeting and Governance: The expanded 9-Member Board continued to meet Quarterly in person and intermittently when necessary. The 2023 Board Members were: Judge Arbuckle, Fred Holland (Treasurer), Paul Roman, Julieanne Steinbacher, Sean Gingerich (Secretary), Nicole Ippolito, Robin Read (President), Liz White (President of the LLA) and Joy McCoy (President Elect of LLA).

Foundation's Charter and Mission: Since its organization in 1989, the Foundation has served as the giving arm of the LLA. The Foundation's Charter and Mission is to educate the general public about, and promote improvement in, the legal process and jurisprudence.

Fund Management: Woodlands Bank continued to manage the Foundation's funds in 2023 and the Board met with representatives of the Bank on October 25, 2023 to review the account and investment strategy. The Board continued the historical conservative investment policy and continued with the historical goal to increase the principal to the level wherein the interest, dividends and gains can be utilized to fund grants without invading the principal.

Fund Raising: The Foundation is funded solely by donations in memory of deceased local attorneys, from retaining 20% of the Arbitration Fees donated by local attorneys and from private donations. In 2023, the Board continued its efforts to encourage memorial donations and encouraged members to increase their donations of Arbitration Fees. Additionally, on October 25th, the Board voted to proceed with a Fund Raising Campaign beginning in January, 2024 with four commitment levels for donors: Young Lawyer (\$150), Life Advocate (\$500), Rising Sun Society Contributor (\$2,500), and the Joseph C. Rider Society (\$5,000). Donors can pay their pledge over multiple years and can designate the funds to the General Fund, North Penn Legal Services or the new Joseph C. Rider Scholarship Fund (See below).

Donations of Note for 2023: In two separate checks of \$1,000, Barbara Rider donated \$2,000 in memory of Joe Rider. Additionally, Judge Arbuckle donated his \$1,000 Nichols Service Award to the Foundation.

Matching Funds from the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation: At the suggestion of Judge Arbuckle, the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation implemented a program wherein it matched up to \$1,000 to Unit county Bar Foundations/Associations funded programs. The Foundation made application for matching funds for its 2022 grants to the North Penn Legal Services and to the Lycoming County Historical Society/Tabor Museum. Both applications were approved, but prorated as the projects had already begun. Thus, the Foundation received a total of \$1,850 matched for the two projects. The Foundation has made application for match to the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation for its award to the Montoursville Area High School Mock Trial Team (See Grants Awarded below).

Adoption of the Joseph C. Rider Scholarship Fund: On January 25, 2023 the LLAF decided to implement an annual program to fund up to three \$1,000 scholarships to Lycoming County residents attending law school. The Board intentionally made the Application Form and process simple to encourage Lycoming County Law School Students to apply. In honor and memory of one of founding members of the Foundation, the Board has named it the Joseph C. Rider Scholarship Fund.

Formula for calculating available funds for Granting and Funds Available for Granting: In 2023, the Board followed the same formula historically adopted for calculating the Maximum Allowance of funds available for grants, to wit: 4% of the net (gross less fund expenses) fund balance at the year-end of the previous year. The gross balance excludes arbitration fees contributed by attorney members which are historically granted in large part to North Penn Legal Services (as outlined below). Normally any balance remaining of the yearly Maximum Allowance of funds available for granting would not carry over to the following year. Because of the disruption of the COVID pandemic, the Board voted in 2021 and again in 2022 to carry over the balances of the yearly Maximum Allowances to be added to the following year's Maximum Allowance. In 2023 the Board voted to make the carry over of remaining funds into the next year part of its permanent funding policy. Thus, going forward, any year-end balance of Maximum Allowance will be carried over into the following year and available for granting.

Grants Awarded: In 2023, the Foundation awarded the following grants:

- a) \$7,160 to North Penn Legal Services which was 80% of the \$8,950 Arbitration Fees donation by LLA members. This is consistent with the Foundation's historical award to North Penn Legal Services of Arbitration Fees with the Foundation retaining 20% of the donated Arbitration Fees as Administrative Expenses.
- b) Based on the recommendation of the Outreach Committee, the Board voted on October 25th to award \$3,500 to the Montoursville Area High School Mock Trial Team for Registration Fees, hotel accommodations and food for up to 20 members of its Team to attend the Cathedral Classic Mock Trial Competition at the University of Pittsburgh in January, 2024. A "Large Check" presentation was held on November 14th at the Montoursville Area School District Meeting with four Board Members, the High School Mock Trial Team Coach and three Team Members in attendance.
- c) Based on the recommendation of the Outreach Committee, the Board voted on October 25th to award up to \$100 to the Lycoming Law Association Young Lawyers Division for purchase of six new totes for its annual Salvation Army Toy Collection.

2024 Scheduled Meeting Dates: The Foundation plans to meet Quarterly again in 2024 with scheduled meeting dates of January 24th, April 24th, July 24th and October 23rd at noon at the LLA office.

Special Thank Yous: Once again, the Foundation Board thanks LLA Executive Director Michele Frey for her continued assistance in 2023 and for her eternal enthusiasm and optimism for the Foundation's operations and goals. The Board also thanks the Members of the Outreach Committee who vet the Grant Awards Applications and provide the Foundation Board with recommendations on funding each Application.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin A Read, LLA Foundation President