

LYCOMING LAW ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR 2017

During my tenure on the Lycoming Law Association Executive Committee, I came to appreciate the asset that the Lycoming Law Association is for local attorneys. My time on the Executive Board gave me the opportunity to see those who have served the Law Association for years behind the scenes with little recognition but are the backbone for many important services for the profession. This includes the years of service by Gary Weber, in his many official and unofficial roles as the editor of the legal journal, LLA event photographer, webmaster and historian, and the contributions of Tammy Weber, John Petrovito and Corey Mowery, each wearing several different hats and seemingly never saying no to anything they are asked to do for the LLA. I have also had the good fortune of serving with many great colleagues on the Executive Committee and being the beneficiary of their leadership during their terms as the Lycoming Law Association President. This included the initiative to relocate the Law Association's office to a larger space that allowed the LLA to expand its own CLE presentations and also host those by PBI, the hiring of a new Executive Director, the expansion of community service opportunities and the continuation of great traditions. I went into my year as Law Association President with the aspiration of continuing legacies that had been set by my predecessors.

With the leadership of Executive Director Michele Frey, the LLA had a successful 2017. Michele approaches her role at the LLA with passion and commitment. It became obvious early on this was not a clock in clock out type of job for Michele. Michele is truly committed to the wellbeing of the LLA and its members. I can remember repeatedly hearing Michele state when discussing several different items that what she was concerned about was the LLA members and their interest. This commitment was reflected in how she went about helping put

together the several facets of the LLA services. Her commitment helped produce a very successful annual meeting and dinner, an increased number of Eat and Earn events, the Wills for Heroes event, the annual picnic, in-house Quizzo event, the Knoebels family trip, a kayak trip and the new admittee ceremony. This only highlights the bigger events and does not include all of the smaller accomplishments throughout the year. The other tasks include but are not limited to the coordination and attending several of the Committee meetings, overseeing the financial day-to-day operation of the LLA and the general troubleshooting of member issues.

In 2017, the LLA also created a new bridge with the Penn State Law School in State College. LLA members participated in two events with Penn State Law School during 2017. First, members of the LLA attended the Penn State Law School Career Fair. This gave the LLA an opportunity to meet Penn State students and to introduce them to Lycoming County as a potential place to practice law. This event was not geared towards individual firms or offices recruiting law students for their office but as an introduction to Lycoming County as a whole. This was followed up by holding a social event in Williamsport in the fall of 2017 with Penn State Law students. The social event included a happy hour followed by dinner with LLA members. This event again served as a means of introducing Penn State Law students to Lycoming County and the potential of practicing in Lycoming County. As many of us know, recruiting attorneys into Lycoming County can be a difficult task. The hope is that this bridge with the Penn State Law School will create an awareness regarding Lycoming County and a potential source of future attorneys for the LLA. Throughout this process, we have built a great relationship with the Dean of Students, Randy Reliford. Mr. Reliford has been an enthusiastic supporter of the LLA and an important connection for moving forward.

The LLA has also garnered additional outside financial support for its events for 2017 and 2018. In 2017, we received \$1,000 sponsorships from Woodlands Bank for the annual dinner and a \$1,000 from FindLaw for annual picnic. For 2018, Woodlands Bank, FindLaw and Smart Start have all committed to \$1,000 donations for the annual dinner. Additionally, FindLaw has committed an additional \$2,000 to sponsor the annual picnic and the trip to Knoebels. All three of the organizations have stepped up to be strong partners with the Law Association in both providing financial sponsorships and in providing services to our membership.

As we move into 2018, the LLA is embarking on several exciting and important endeavors. The first being the complete overhaul of the LLA website to make it fully compatible with mobile devices. Additionally, the LLA Bar History Committee has been working diligently on a publication to honor the 150 years of the LLA that will be celebrated in 2019. As part of the 2019 celebration, Magistrate District Judge Christian Frey has taken on the leadership role to organize an 150th Anniversary Committee. This Committee has come up with several great events to celebrate and honor the 150 years that the LLA has existed and served this community.

The Court of Common Pleas held another wonderful new admittee ceremony for the admittance of six new attorneys to practice in Lycoming County. The new admittees included Sean Gingrich, Joseph Ruby, Jason Lepley, Benjamin Green, Taylor Mulholland and Landon Hodges. It is apparent from the well-spoken introductions, the Law Association can anticipate great service from these individuals.

I had the honor of serving on the Executive Committee this year with Jennifer Heverly, President-Elect, Christian Frey, Treasurer, Angela Lovecchio, Secretary, Don Martino, Corey

Mowery, Yvonne Campbell, Elizabeth White and Robert Cronin, immediate past President. The Executive Committee is indebted to the great service of Michele Frey as Executive Director and Gary Weber as the editor of the Legal Reporter and webmaster.

I have been humbled and honored by the opportunity to serve the LLA over these years. It has motivated me to stay involved in the LLA through this service opportunity. I am also excited by the great leadership the LLA will receive next year with President Jennifer Heverly and the future years as each of the current Executive Committee members moves up through their presidency.

Sincerely,

Ryan M. Tira