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Executive Director's Report – 2016

I am pleased to report 2016 was a successful year for the LLA. Lots was achieved under the direction and guidance of LLA President, Bob Cronin. I am grateful to the entire Executive Committee for their leadership and instruction. I am confident that 2017 will see continued success during the “Tira Administration.”

Membership:

The LLA had 203 members in 2016. Four new attorneys that were admitted to the county bar in December. Unfortunately, three LLA members, C. Max Hall, Judge Tom Raup and Judge Clinton Smith passed away in 2016.

An updated Membership Directory was produced this year. The composite photos that were taken last year were utilized and the directory was, for the first time, pictorial.

Committees:

President Cronin and I attended nearly every committee meeting held in 2016. The Real Estate Committee and the Elder Law Committee produced updated consumer warnings, which were posted on the LLA's website and widely circulated on Facebook. The YLD Committee hosted a Quizzo event for the first time. It was a successful event in that several attendees offered favorable remarks afterwards and members who were unable to attend asked if there would be another Quizzo event in the future. The Social Committee expanded the Knoebel's event to include a picnic lunch and, with the encouragement of President Cronin, the Social Committee also coordinated with the paralegal association. The LLA provided all of the food and Knoebel's tickets to its members and the paralegal association provided cold drinks and tickets to its members. Despite the extreme heat, everyone had a great time.

A committee chair luncheon was held in March and each chairperson in attendance outlined his/her committee objectives for the year. A second committee chair luncheon was held in October. At this second luncheon, the chairpersons identified issues that the executive committee could assist with and made budget requests.

Visibility:

A working relationship between the LLA and the Sun Gazette is being fostered. The newspaper sent a reporter to nearly every event that the LLA notified them of.

The LLA's Facebook page has 198 followers. Announcements, achievements, news, jokes and consumer warnings have been posted. The LLA's social media presence continues to grow.

Continuing Legal Education:

Ten Eat & Earn CLEs were held in 2016. Five of the Eat & Earn presentations were recorded. The LLA held its first video replay CLE utilizing the recorded Eat & Earn presentations.

One Malpractice Avoidance program was offered.

All attorney volunteers who required training for the Wills for Heroes event received two free CLE credits.

PBI has two local registrars who handle PBI offerings that are held in the LLA's classroom. Unfortunately, PBI has begun to cancel classes ten to fifteen days in advance if nobody is registered. This has been problematic for our members, who sometimes do not sign up for classes so far in advance.

Conferences:

Conference of County Bar Leaders (February, 2016) – President Cronin and I attended together. The programs at the conferences are crafted specifically for county bar executives and leadership. The speakers and programs provide county leadership with constructive suggestions about the operations of the county bar associations.

House of Delegates (May and November 2016) – At this conference I attended meetings for two organizations, the Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives and the Conference of County Legal Journals. The information provided at the meetings/conferences has been enormously beneficial. President Cronin (May) and Corey Mowrey (November), along with Zone Governor John Pietrovito and Zone Representatives Ed Mitchell, Julie Steinbacher, Skip Greevy and Rita Alexyn attended the House of Delegates meeting. Member Bill Carlucci was also present at House of Delegates in his capacity as past PBA President.

National Association of Bar Executives (June, 2016) –A national small bar conference was held in Baltimore, which I attended. Many Pennsylvania county bar executives were in attendance due proximity of the location selected for the conference. There were various speakers, roundtable discussions and presentations at the conferences. I found the information provided at this conference to be very useful.

I find attending the conferences to be very advantageous. There is a working dialogue between the county bar executives and managers of the legal journals that continues outside of the conferences. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the annual summer event for Pennsylvania Association of Bar Executives this year secondary to a scheduling issue.

Community:

Lycoming County had its second Wills for Heroes event. Eighteen LLA members volunteered their time.

High School Mock Trial and Law Day competitions were conducted, as usual.

The YLD holiday toy and clothing drive was again successful. This year the committee members were much more involved. Multiple committee members retrieved collection bins and met for a photo at the Salvation Army.

LLA Office:

A Room Rental Policy has been established for reservation of the classroom or conference room.

A very large copy of the 2015 Bench and Bar Composite was framed and hung in the LLA Office (a duplicate was framed and provided to the Courthouse for display).

The LLA hosted a "Meet and Greet" at its office for its members to meet the new Court Administrator, Adrienne Stahl, and her staff. Lots of members took the opportunity to meet Adrienne, who answered questions and provided a "directory" outlining which Court Admin/Scheduling staffers to call depending on the type of case at issue. After the event several LLA members told me they found it to be very beneficial.

The LLA Continues to move toward exclusively electronic communication. Indeed, invitations for all social events (annual dinner, Quizzo, happy hour, annual picnic, Knoebel's, etc.) were distributed by email only.

Sincerely,
LYCOMING LAW ASSOCIATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Frey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michele S. Frey, Executive Director